Daily Report

Latin America

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Cuba

Human Rights Group Seeks Approval for New Party

FL2907114588 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 29 Jul 88

[Text] The Cuban Human Rights Committee wants to set up a new political party in Cuba. They have asked the Ministry of Justice permission to found the party.

The Human Rights Committee, which is not officially recognized by the Cuban authorities, will not be abolished should it get permission to found the new party. After the party has been set up, its supporters want to collect signatures to try to democratize Cuba's political system.

Cuban, Angolan, S. African Delegations Meet

FL2807135688 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Text] It was officially reported that military delegations from Angola, Cuba, and South Africa met on 22 and 23 July on the island of Sao Capo Verde [as heard]. U.S. representatives also attended. The United States is acting as mediator.

During the meeting, opinions were exchanged on the military situation. Discussion on this topic will continue at the next quadripartite talks which will be held in Geneva on 2 August.

The countries represented at the meeting expressed their appreciation to the Government of Cape Verde for providing the necessary facilities for the meeting.

Nicaragua's Borge Gives Santiago News Conference

FL2907011888 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Jul 88

[Text] Commander Tomas Borge, interior minister of Nicaragua, has granted a news conference in Santiago de Cuba with the attendance of domestic and foreign journalists accredited to the city for the 35th anniversary of the Moncada Barracks attack.

[Begin Borge recording] We agreed to hold the talks in Nicaragua. They did not like it when the talks were held in Nicaragua. They expected the Nicaraguan people to get excited and go out to welcome them—I suppose this is what they hoped for—and nobody made a move other than to repudiate them. Once they found a block of ice in the consciousness of the Nicaraguans regarding the alleged support for them, they decided not to return to the country.

We are committed to the Latin American people. What we do or don't do, say or don't say, will be based on the interests of the Latin American people. [end recording]

The Sandinist leader highly praised Cuba's solidarity with Nicaragua.

[Begin Borge recording] It has no limits. Since the first day, ever since Fernando Cardenal organized the literacy crusade, thousands of Cuban teachers arrived. When the call was made for volunteers to go to Nicaragua, all teachers in Cuba volunteered to go to Nicaragua.

There have been attempts to disrupt, stop, and break this relation with Cuba. Now that I am in Cuba I want to say—I have always wanted to say this—that anything can happen here. We can be destroyed. If we were given an ultimatum regarding the continuation of relations with Cuba, we say that all of us would rather die before breaking relations with this sister Republic of Cuba. I am not saying this because of demagoguery or because I am in Cuba but because this feeling we have had—at least I have had in my heart for many years—needs to be expressed. I wanted to say this in this country sometime. I have done it at last. [end recording]

Further on Solidarity

PA2907030288 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Report by Barbara Betancur on news conference by Nicaraguan Interior Minister Commander Tomas Borge in Santiago de Cuba on 26 July—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Borge] "I believe the contras' defeat has been more than strategic. The difference between a strategic defeat and a tactical defeat must first be established. I believe they have been strategically defeated and their operational capabilities are disintegrating. In other words, I believe if hostilities were to resume immediately—a possibility I do not dismiss—the contras' operational disintegration would grow deeper than ever. I believe a new effort must be made to find a negotiated solution to avoid bloodshed, but should this prove to be impossible and the war resumes on the same terms as before, the contras' operational disintegration and defeat would take a relatively short time."

[Betancur] Referring to U.S. Ambassador Richard Melton's expulsion from Managua, Borge explained the measure was necessary because Nicaragua could not risk having its sovereign and independent image undermined in Latin America. He also answered questions regarding his country's political traits.

[Borge] "In my country, the revolution's basic traits are: political pluralism, mixed economy, nonalignment, and collective leadership in the form of the FSLN's National Directorate."

[Betancur] Commander Borge described the Arias plan as very positive, and asserted the Sandinist government has fully complied with it, to a much greater extent than the rest of the Central American countries. He concluded by expressing pleasure over a question a reporter from THE WASHINGTON POST asked regarding the aid Cuba gives Nicaragua.

[Borge] "Julia, you have given me the opportunity to say something important, something I have always wanted to say (?in public). If I had to measure the solidarity of a country, there would be no tape measure capable of measuring Cuba's solidarity toward Nicaragua. It would be impossible to establish parameters to explain Cuba's infinite degree of solidarity toward Nicaragua, because that is what we see [words indistinct]. What cannot be seen is much greater than what is seen, and the aid we have received from Cuba is limitless. From the 1st day, from the day Fernando Cardenal organized the literacy campaign, thousands of Cuban teachers arrived. When volunteers were requested in Cuba to go to Nicaragua, all the teachers in Cuba offered themselves as volunteers. A selection process was necessary. I do not have the slightest doubt that if we had to request volunteers to work for the Nicaraguans or fight alongside the Nicaraguans, and registration tables were set up here and all who wanted to go were accepted, Cuba would be left without inhabitants. I do not have the slightest doubt of this.

Cuba has given us oil—even though it is not an oil-producing country—in greater quantities than we receive from other countries. Cuba has helped us with everything, and even when we have attempted to establish mutually favorable businesses, Fidel Castro has refused, so it would not even be suspected that Cuba wanted to take advantage of even a millimeter of its relations with Nicaragua. Moreover, the Cuban people's infinite generosity toward Nicaragua has never been based upon conditions, and their respectful treatment of our decisions has never wavered since the 1st day of the revolution's victory. So much has been said about Nicaragua's being a Cuban satellite, just as it is said that Cuba is a Soviet satellite. We are a satellite's satellite. Things like this are said, and I must add that never has Cuba, Fidel, or any Cuban revolutionary leader established the slightest condition or asked us to make a decision in Cuba's interest. Our opinions on issues have coincided, but Fidel has never told us: I believe this, or this is my opinion on this or that, [words indistinct] to the extent of giving advice or expressing opinions. Such has been Fidel's tact and respect toward us. He would say: Although I know you are not going to do this, this is my opinion.

We have, in fact, frequently done things that did not coincide with the Cuban point of view, although we have coincided—which is natural—because we are brothers.

Efforts have been made to hinder, deny, and break up this relationship with Cuba. I must say—since I am in Cuba and have always wanted to say it—anything can happen here. We could be destroyed. If all Nicaraguans had the option of dying in exchange for maintaining our relations with Cuba, we would all prefer to die before breaking off relations with our brother country Cuba. I am not saying this out of demagoguery or because I am in Cuba, but because it is necessary to express this sentiment we have kept to ourselves—at least I have kept locked in my heart for many years, and wanted to express in this country some time. I have finally done it."

Trade Agreement Documents Signed With Peru

FL2207145788 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1432 GMT 22 Jul 88

[Excerpt] Trade agreement ratification documents were signed and exchanged between Cuba and Peru at the Foreign Ministry offices in Havana today. Vice Foreign Minister Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada signed the documents for the Cuban side and Ambassador Carlos Alberto Higueras Ramos for Peru. They said the agreement ratification strengthens relations between Cuba and Peru. [passage omitted]

Bahamas

Government Welcomes U.S. Efforts Against Drugs

FL2707155088 Bridgetown CANA in English 1403 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Text] Nassau, Bahamas, July 27, CANA—The Bahamas has welcomed the recent Congress approval of resolutions granting the United States military forces wider powers in matters of drug interdiction in the U.S.

The Bahamas also invited the U.S. Government to "shut off the Bahamas (drug trafficking) route to the U.S.," through expanded use of the U.S. military in Bahamian territorial waters and airspace.

The support for the U.S. anti-drug campaign and the invitation were mentioned in a letter from the Attorney-General's office here for delivery to the Armed Services Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate.

The government in Nassau said it gave its full "support (to) the objective sought to be achieved by the Congress."

The use of U.S. Armed Forces in the drug war has been advocated by the Bahamas Government for sometime now...," the government said.

As far as the Bahamas is concerned, the letter said, the congressional decision can be implemented "immediately with the active co-operation of the Bahamas Defence Force and Police Force in expanded joint operations."

The letter also refers to a "comprehensive strategic plan" devised by the Bahamas and submitted to the U.S. last May 19 for joint U.S.-Bahamas drug interdiction operations in the Bahamas.

The plan calls for the U.S. to assign six frigates to action in and around the Bahamas for an experimental 120-180-day period. Had the plan been adopted the frigates would have started patrolling since July 1, 1988.

The frigates, with their advanced air search radar systems, were to have been stationed in stragic areas of Bahamian waters and each would have a helicopter and a strike team.

Another dimension of the plan was to have been the formation of a U.S. Bahamas group to follow-up on investigations of major drug seizures.

"...No more effective strategy has yet been devised to shut off the Bahamas (drug trafficking) route to the U.S...," the letter said.

Haiti

Further on Jean-Rabel Massacre Anniversary

FL2507220988 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 25 Jul 88

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Saturday, 23 July, was the first anniversary of the Jean-Rabel massacre, which cost some 200 peasants their lives. In order to mark the anniversary, there was a mass yesterday at Saint Jean Bosco Church in memory of the peasants killed.

In his homily, Father Jean-Marie Vincent, one of the leaders of Groupman Tet Ansanm, made certain revelations about the Jean-Rabel slaughter. He accused the big landowners in the area of having manipulated the peasants and pushed them to kill one another.

Father Jean-Marie Vincent reaffirmed his support for peasants throughout Haiti. Finally, he called on the peasant class to organize in order to demand their rights. [passage omitted including indistinct portions]

The day before, on Saturday, Father Jean-Marie Vincent addressed the following message to the peasants of Jean-Rabel:

[Begin recording of Father Vincent, speaking in Creole] Well, I want to inform all the poor, all the peasants of Jean-Rabel, that I am with them in spirit, that I am committed to them, that they have my solidarity at their service (?to the death).

Various organizations and institutions, and both Catholic and Protestant militants who are working with Haiti's small peasant farmers, wanted to get together to hold a big celebration in commemoration of the courage of the peasants of Jean-Rabel, Beau Champ, (Danty), Milot, Grande Anse, La Gonave, Grepin, Thiotte, Papaye, Marchand Dessalines, (Labadi), Verrettes, Desarmes, (Morne Kao), Saint Louis du Nord, (Vitier), and Anse-a-Foleur, with the purpose of making all decent people in Haiti and abroad reflect upon the situation of Haiti's poor peasants so that the criminal action of 23 July 1987 against the poor, small peasant farmers of Jean-Rabel may never again be repeated in Haiti.

I have come here today to tell the peasants of Jean-Rabel that they are not alone on this day. All the families and friends of these peasants who are listening in Jean-Rabel must dry their tears. All the organized peasants working in all serious and honest institutions are with them today. All serious and upright people, who know what kind of hope the peasants of Jean-Rabel represent for this country, are with them today even though they cannot see them.

They killed 139 of you, but they cannot kill your awareness. You must continue the battle you were waging together to get the government lands into your hands. If altars are for priests, if barracks are for soldiers, and if shops are for merchants, then the government-owned lands in the hinterlands are for the poor, small peasant farmers, for those who live on them and work them.

I will conclude by repeating to you the watchword of the Papaye Peasants Congress: Organization or Death.

This same decision was the issue of the resolution of the last Caritas Nationale general assembly for 1987. We must hang in there. There is no people that accept their chains indefinitely.

I remain in solidarity with you, my brothers. Father Jean-Marie Vincent [end recording]

Still within the framework of the anniversary of the Jean-Rabel massacre, the peasants of the central plateau have addressed a message of solidarity to the peasants of Jean-Rabel. Here is our correspondent in the area, Alex Joseph:

[Joseph, speaking in Creole] Sixty-six peasant delegates from the central plateau have sent a long message of solidarity to Groupman Tet Ansanm in Jean-Rabel and all other people's organizations [words indistinct]. [passage omitted]

Do not be discouraged because never has a Good Friday failed to be followed by an Easter Sunday. The blood of their children and their brothers has not been shed in vain. The blood of the poor peasant farmers will irrigate all the organizations of poor peasants and all people's organizations, so that they will [words indistinct], so that they will get together and become a greater front, so they will become stronger, says the message. [passage omitted]

These deaths should make us fight for agrarian reform so that the land will be for all those who work it. We say to the families of the poor peasants of Groupman Tet Ansanm: Hang in there. Don't give up. We are at your side in the struggle.

When the eye receives a blow, the nose runs. It is as if we ourselves were the peasants of Jean-Rabel. Together, we will (?win a life) for all the poor.

On this occasion, we are thinking about all the other poor peasants who have fallen—in Milot, in (Danty), in Desarmes. We are thinking of all the poor peasants they are persecuting throughout Haiti; the workers whose blood they are sucking dry and whom they are mistreating in factories and then throwing out into the streets in Port-au-Prince.

We are all stones in the sun. The travail of one is the travail of all.

In the face of the situation that is getting tougher daily; in the face of the intimidation, oppression, and murder that increases daily throughout Haiti in the people's camp [words indistinct].

For this reason, we are blowing the conch shell, calling on all organizations that want change to assemble and to unite their forces quickly. The only chance we have is a huge national organization.

Organization or Death.

Sixty-six Papaye Peasants Movements delegates (?sign) this message of solidarity from the peasants of the central plateau on the occasion of the anniversary of the massacre of peasants in Jean-Rabel.

From Hinche, this is Alex Joseph for Radio Metropole. [passage omitted]

Jacmel Leaders Support Namphy Government

FL2707204288 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 26 Jul 88

[Report from Jacmel Correspondent Mozart Duplan]

[Excerpts] The Mary Magdalene festival was held in Peredo, a section in Marigot in the commune of Jacmel, over the weekend, more precisely, on Friday 22 July. [passage omitted]

A large mass was held on Friday morning. [passage omitted]

Afterward, there was a mass meeting organized by the authorities. There were several speakers at the mass meeting: Madlon Lartigue, who is the president of the Casec [Administrative Council for the Communal Section] for the area; Carlo Jean-Louis, director of the information office; Jonassaint Jeudy, the communal magistrate of Marigot; Norice Deronette, who is a leader [preceding word in English] from Macary; and Jean-Claude Lafontant, the prefect.

All the speakers spoke out in support of the military government of Henri Namphy. They said that this military government provides a guarantee that there will be peace and security. They asked the peasants to walk along hand in hand with the military government so that everything would go well in Peredo.

The inhabitants of the area seized the opportunity to ask the speakers to petition the Namphy government to give them roads and a bridge over the Peredo River, because their biggest problem is the Peredo River, which forms two branches. Both of these branches are very dangerous when it is raining and there is a high water level in the river. [passage omitted]

Many of the speakers seized the opportunity to praise Saint-Voyis Pascal, a leader who has greatly developed the area. It is thanks to the devotion of this leader that the area has drinking water, good schools, a few roads, and some development. That is why the people in the area appointed Saint-Voyis Pascal development adviser. [as heard] [passage omitted]

Lottery Depicted as 'Benevolent Institution'

FL2707193088 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 16 Jul 88

[Text] The new administration of the Haitian Government lottery has just set up a short-term action plan aimed at better commercializing lottery tickets in the nine geographical departments of Haiti.

This plan, in addition to the other things that it has in mind, and in agreement with and with the authorization of the Haitian Chamber of Commerce, establishes new sales points in the industrial and commercial sectors. It also creates a marketing and public relations section.

The plan is aimed at revitalizing the activities of this dynamic institution in provincial towns, especially in places where the lottery does not have official representatives. To this end, traveling salesmen working on commission are going to be recruited. They will be in charge of distributing and placing the tickets.

There will be a team that will go all over Haiti to make the population of the different towns and communal sections aware of the role and the benefits of the Haitian Government lottery as a benevolent institution with a social and humanitarian vocation that is at the service of the Haitian people.

The administration of the Haitian Government lottery is currently studying the possibility of launching a new social security lottery, to be known as super-lotto, in order to fill the vacuum left by the Peligre lottery, which no longer exists.

Trade Union Informs Minister of Plant Problems

FL2707212488 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 26 Jul 88

[Excerpts] The workers union from the Zwicker International factory has written the minister of social affairs to tell him of the many difficulties they are encountering with the factory's boss when they try to carry out union activities.

The letter begins: Mr Minister, we would like to explain to you the history of the Zwicker International workers union, with events in chronological order. [passage omitted]

On 24 March 1988, we decided that we had to form a union. [passage omitted] On 12 April 1988, we received a letter of recognition from the Department of Social Affairs.

On the morning of 13 April, lay-offs and hiring by turns [compresyon roulman] began only among the executive committee.

The meeting with the bosses, Antoine Khawly (?and) Alerte, was (?to be) on 18 April at 1600. The meeting was (?to deal with the issue) of how we (?would henceforth) work, openly. There was no union yet.

The meeting with the boss took place on 3 May 1988 at 1600. The company's lawyer was not present. That meeting was about the termination notices he was giving union members, about how the hygienic conditions—as per Article 439, paragraph 5—were not being observed, and about mutual respect.

We did not get much of a result and we decided to write the Labor Department to explain the problems. We asked the department to summon the employer to a meeting to find a solution to the problems. That was on 25 April.

The regional bureau for the West sent an answer to our letter on 1 May through a representative of the central organization, asking us to appear on 11 May at 1000. On that day, the employer threw the representative of the CATH/CLAT [Autonomous Organization of Haitian Workers/Latin American Central Organization of Workers] out of the plant, Social Affairs Ministry summons and all.

Despite all this, we members of the executive committee took the letter and delivered it to him anyway. The next day, 12 May, he did not show up.

The department head at the regional bureau for the West, who is a specialist on unions, asked for an emergency investigation of the factory.

On 17 May, an inspector for the regional bureau for the West came to investigate, but the employer was not there. The inspector promised to return on 19 May.

On 19 May, at 0900, the employer did not hesitate to send for armed civilians to come throw us out of the factory and to force us to sign. [as heard] We refused.

The Zwicker International union met in a general assembly on 13 July 1988, 1 month and 24 days after the first committee was fired. We formed a new executive committee to take over.

On 14 July, the employer received a copy of the union's minutes. That same afternoon, he gave all members of the committee and all other union members termination notices.

On that same day we met to decide what to do. We wrote the heads of the Labor Department and the Social Affairs office for the West on 21 July asking that they investigate the terms of the notices of termination that were being distributed to union members. We took the employer a letter of warning. He refused to accept it and called in six more union members to give them termination notices. They, in turn, refused to accept these notices. The employer immediately told us to get out and he threw out 13 members of the union's committee and 14 union members. [passage omitted]

That was a letter from the Zwicker International workers union to Minister of Social Affairs Phedre Desir to inform him of the problems they are encountering at that factory.

Baccalaureate Student Registration in Progress

FL2707200088 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 26 Jul 88

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] At the same time that 1988 baccalaureate exams are being corrected, candidates who did not take the 1986-87 baccalaureate exams are going for registration. Registration began yesterday morning at Lycee Antenor Firmin and Lycee Jean-Jacques Dessalines, as scheduled by the Ministry of Education.

According to information from the Ministry of Education, more than 600 candidates have already registered at Lycee Antenor Firmin and others have registered at Lycee Jean-Jacques Dessalines. If this trend continues, a large percentage of the students who did not take the baccalaureate exam last year may take the one scheduled for next 19 September, the special session. Registration has been orderly and disciplined. [passage omitted]

[Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole at 1100 GMT on 26 July, in a similar report, notes that "according to a Ministry of Education official, some 800 students registered in the capital yesterday."]

Student Protest Viewed

FL2707223888 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Excerpts] Registration for the baccalaureate exam, Part I, to be held in September went normally yesterday, both in the capital and in a number of provincial towns. Close to 1,000 students out of 6,473 registered in Port-au-Prince, and we could see that there was a big crowd. There were many, many students at the schools where registration was going on.

The special Philo class students met yesterday at four schools in the capital to discuss the problem of the students who did not participate in the 1987 baccalaureate exams. We met with several members of the committee made up of representatives from 23 schools that called for this meeting as part of their week of demonstrations in protest of the latest Education Ministry decision.

During our talk, they explained to us why they are organizing this series of meetings and spoke to us of what they hope to achieve through this struggle.

[Begin recording] [First unidentified speaker] [Passage omitted] We are happy to see that the students are willing to continue to struggle, and that they see the need to better organize; that is, to meet more often so that we can be better trained, so that we will not wait for a crisis to break out again before we feel a need to gather somewhere and do a lot of talking while not solving anything.

Now, based on the committees that are going to be formed, there will be several small cells, you see. We will then be able to make decisions. Together, we will be able to come up with a plan—that's a big word, isn't it! —a strategy to combat this educational system, which is rotten to the core.

[Reporter] So your strategy was not simply to struggle to get them to allow you to take the exam in October. It also targeted the entire educational system?

[Speaker] Yes. It is that work, of raising awareness, that we are doing today with the small minority in our hands.

[Reporter] Was it only the special Philo class students who came, or were there students from other classes too?

[Speaker] Most of them were from the special Philo classes, because it is they who are affected. But, it is going to spread. And in order for it to spread, there must be a cadre that is well aware of the situation, that sees that the problem is not just a problem of the special Philo classes but rather that the problem is that the educational system is structured in such a way as to block us from the time we are in elementary school. When you try to unblock the situation—for example, with a solution like these special Philo classes—the reactionary forces rise up against it.

This is when we see that it is not an educational problem. It is the problem of an entire government, an entire system, that we must combat. That much is certain.

[Reporter] How did you organize the work sessions this morning?

[Speaker] We had 3 representatives from each school in the committee of 23. But the committee of 23 is no longer a committee of 23. It has already grown. Thus, we were able to send three or four representatives to each school, according to the number of people we have. We divided these representatives into small groups, to reflect upon the different points in questions and come up with decisions. Now we have become more familiar with the people who attended. And the people who attended have meetings to hold, meetings which we are not going to talk about. We are not going to say when they will be held. I mean, now we are going to set to work.

We have now seen the need to improve organization. That is, it is not just a clique that is going to do the organizing. Rather, now everyone has to organize. But the organizing will (?begin with) meetings. There will be a series of activities together. We are going to try to contact all the sectors affected because the problem is not a single student's problem. It is every student's problem. And it is the entire country's problem, because parents are affected too.

Some parents are workers. This means workers unions are affected. Other parents are peasants, and thus peasants are affected. Still other parents may work at other things. All are concerned. This means that, really, the problem could lead to where it ought to lead to, as we already said. [passage omitted]

[Second unidentified speaker] To conclude, any way you look at it, there are still 16,000 of us, students who are the victims of an educational system that is not really national. Whether we take the baccalaureat exam or not, the problem remains the same, with the system being detrimental to the nation's future. That is, it is a system that has been well set up, all the way from the bottom up, to ignore humble Haitians. So, since we are 16,000 students, we are taking a stand against the system. Even though we see that they are creating ways to block us, we will organize ourselves, so that we can win out anyway, in the long run. [end recording]

Jamaica

Seaga-Manley Statement on Talks Resumption

FL2707191888 Bridgetown CANA in English 1738 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, July 27, CANA—Efforts to promote a violence-free election campaign in Jamaica appeared firmly back on track on Wednesday after Prime Minister Edward Seaga and opposition leader Michael Manley met and ordered their officials to start talking again.

"We agree that the bi-partisan committee which has been drafting the peace agreement should reconvene promptly to make the appropriate amendments to the draft agreement consistent with the new initiatives which have been agreed ...," said a joint statement issued after the meeting on Tuesday night.

"We reconfirm our commitment to a peaceful election and will continue to work together in a spirit of goodwill and understanding," Seaga and Manley said.

Seaga's Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) and Manley's People's National Party (PNP) have for months been negotiating a campaign code of conduct and an investigative mechanism aimed at preventing the level of campaign violence that left hundreds dead in 1980.

But the effort appeared in danger of being badly derailed last week when the JLP broke off talks that were to put the finishing touches to the so-called peace accord, before signing by Seaga and Manley. They blamed the move on alleged PNP-inspired violence against JLP supporters returning from their annual conference on July 17.

JLP spokesmen accused the PNP of speaking loudly to promote the accord but doing little to get the message to its members at the grassroots levels. It called for stronger mechanisms to under-pin the agreement and greater political will from the PNP.

Seaga and his party came under considerable pressure to resume the talks.

In Tuesday's talks Manley and Seaga said they agreed to strengthen the draft agreement with a 20-member tribunal—five each to be nominated by the parties and the others independents—to investigate incidents of reported violence.

Three members—one from each party and an independent—will sit at a time, allowing for the handling or several cases at the same time.

The tribunal will make findings known to the parties, and where necessary to the public.

"We have agreed that in furtherance of the improved relations between the JLP and PNP, both parties will exchange information relating to their campaign activities so that efforts can be made to avoid political confrontation between misguided supporters of both sides," the party leaders said.

Trinidad and Tobago

Robinson 'Optimistic' About Economic 'Triumph'

FL2707153088 Bridgetown CANA in English 1439 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, July 27, CANA—An optimistic Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson told northeast Trinidad businessmen on Tuesday evening that Trinidad and Tobago would emerge stronger as a result of its economic problems.

"I feel sure that out of the challenges of today will arise a stronger Trinidad and Tobago and a people more equipped to hold our own in the world at large," Robinson told a ceremony organised by the eastern division of the Chamber of Industry and Commerce.

At a time when the business community is predicting food and drug import shortfalls due to foreign exchange shortages and the oil based economy is facing its gloomiest times, Robinson, also finance minister, said strength would come to the republic out of its current sacrifice and pain.

"Once our population understands that this is a stage through which almost every country goes through and that there are positive benefits that can be derived from this experience and that we should seek to make the greatest possible use of our experience, indeed Trinidad and Tobago will not only survive, Trinidad and Tobago will triumph," Robinson said.

He said Trinidad and Tobago had all the ingredients to be a "model country," if it could emerge stronger from its current problems.

Robinson offered the business community his "moral support" stating: "I see I have every confidence that you, the people, will respond and, together, Trinidad and Tobago will surmount our present difficulties and will reach new levels of achievements."

Costa Rica

Civil Police Arrest 12 Contras in Las Crucitas

PA2807042088 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Text] A patrol of the Civil Police in Los Chiles has arrested a group of 12 Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries in Costa Rican territory. According to Public Security Minister Hernan Garron, the police arrested the contras in Las Crucitas and seized nine AK-47 rifles, a considerable amount of ammunition, two fragmentation grenades, and other war materiel. Garron added the contras claimed to be lost when they were arrested by the Civil Police.

El Salvador

Duarte, 6 Party Leaders Sign Joint Declaration

PA2907030488 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 1900 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Report by Alfredo Villareal]

[Text] Today Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte and the leaders of six political parties signed a joint declaration aimed at seeking peace in the country. The document, called the "Joint Declaration of the Government and Political Parties," is the result of a series of previously held meetings between these political entities.

The joint declaration, which was released at the Presidential Palace, has three basic parts: a call to create political awareness; principles and agreements between the government and the political parties; and various related clauses.

The war, terrorist violence, and initiatives to achieve peace are dealt with in the first and most important part of the joint declaration, read by Maria Julia Castillo.

[Begin Castillo recording] The search for peace must be a collective effort and a national goal. For that reason, we believe that all sincere efforts carried out by other sectors or national organizations in favor of peace are very positive. We are willing to analyze their proposals as long as they do not go against the democratic process or the Constitution. We will listen to their plans as long as they respect human rights and do not restrict Salvadorans' freedom.

Peace is necessary for El Salvador, but we are not willing to pay just any price for it, because peace is only worthwhile if it is permanent, stable, and firm. We want peace all over the country. We want the kind of peace that protects the rights of each and every one of us. [end recording]

It was said that the joint declaration is the first firm step made in the search for our common goal, the achievement of peace.

It was also stated that the government and political parties will continue working together to come up with a national plan that will fulfill the expectations of the entire nation.

Three Rightist Parties Form New Coalition

PA2707204888 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2232 GMT 26 Jul 88

[Text] San Salvador, 26 Jul (ACAN-EFE)—Today three minority rightist parties created the "Popular Union," UP, coalition in order to "successfully" participate in the March 1989 elections, political sources have reported.

Francisco Quinonez, Hugo Barrera, and Julia Castillo, secretaries general of the Salvadoran Popular Party (PPS), the Liberation Party (PL), and the Salvadoran Authentic Institutional Party (PAISA), joined the coalition that "seeks a resolution of the crisis."

Quinonez defined the coalition's position as "progressive right," which excludes no sector, defends private enterprise, and which is not socialist but democratic.

Two of the parties comprising the UP—PAISA and PL—were formed as the result of a division within the rightist factions of the National Conciliation Party (PCN) and the Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA).

The UP has not yet announced the name of its presidential candidate for the 1989 elections.

Following the March legislative and municipal elections, none of the three parties [in the new coalition] won any seats in the Legislative Assembly, dominated by ARENA's 29 deputies.

Costa Rican President Arrives on Official Visit

PA2707194888 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1855 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Report by Mario Carmona from the Presidential Palace in San Salvador—live or recorded]

[Excerpt] Costa Rican President Dr Oscar Arias Sanchez arrived in San Salvador this morning to meet with Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte. The reason for the visit is to recognize the struggle that President Duarte and his wife have waged continuously to achieve peace and democracy in this country. President Arias also wants to visit with President Duarte and discuss his state of health following his surgery in the United States.

President Arias' visit is interpreted as a diplomatic initiative on his part to analyze the achievements of the Esquipulas II peace plan 1 year after the agreement was signed.

President Arias arrived at the Ilopango Airport at 0915, accompanied by First Lady Margarita Penon and Deputy Foreign Minister Carlos Oduber.

President Arias and his retinue were met at the airport by President Duarte. They then went to the Presidential Palace. [passage omitted]

Meets Duarte, Departs

PA2807160088 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Text] Costa Rican President Oscar Arias has described his brief visit to El Salvador as a tribute of his recognition and affection for President Jose Napoleon Duarte and his family. Accompanied by an official delegation, Arias praised the role that Duarte has played within Esquipulas II and the Salvadoran peace process. He described Duarte's role as decisive, adding that it will go down in Central American history.

[Begin Arias recording] In view of his imminent return to the United States to continue treatment, I did not want President Duarte and Dona Inez to depart before my wife Margarita and I could bear witness to Costa Rica's affection for him and pray to God that he will overcome this sad and difficult ailment.

Napoleon Duarte has won so many victories, he has fought with so much conviction, integrity, and determination, that I know he will find the strength to win this battle. [end recording].

During Arias' news conference, he said the allegedly ailing Esquipulas II peace plan is still the only political option for peace in the region, even though the Central American presidents will not meet on 1 August to continue discussing the pact they signed in Guatemala City 1 year ago.

[Begin Arias recording] We have achieved more with the Esquipulas II peace agreement than with any other effort, much more than we have with war or the Contadora Group, and I am sure we would achieve more with Esquipulas II than with any other new initiative. After all, for many years we Central Americans have regretted our inability to resolve our own problems and our need to have others tell us what to do. [end recording]

Arias was welcomed with honors at the presidential house after his arrival at the Ilopango military airport. He was accompanied by President Duarte, the two first ladies, and delegations. The two presidents later met for 2 hours. President Arias returned to Costa Rica 4 and ½ hours after his arrival due to commitments with his cabinet.

During Arias' third visit to El Salvador during his presidency, the Costa Rican president and Nobel Peace Prize winner said the possibility of achieving peace in Central America has been weakened because the Esquipulas II plan has not been totally fulfilled.

Vides on FMLN Capabilities, Demonstrators

PA2807234588 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1720 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Report on statements by Defense Minister General Carlos Eugenio Vides Casanova to unidentified reporters after being questioned by the Legislative Assembly in San Salvador on 27 July]

[Text] This morning Defense and Public Security Minister General Eugenio Vides Casanova said the FMLN has no real capacity to continue waging war. He said the FMLN is incapable of taking any action, with the exception of some small operations.

Today Vides Casanova went before the political committee of the Legislative Assembly and said in the next few days the Armed Forces will initiate actions against the country's labor leaders. In announcing these new actions, Vides Casanova approved the attitude adopted by Air Force General Juan Rafael Bustillos, who directed [words indistinct].

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Is it possible you might begin arresting demonstrators in the cities?

[Vides] I believe so, but we are trying to work out other methods. I believe we must first make the leaders aware of their responsibilities. After this has been done (?and opinions have been formed), we should make arrests after the demonstrations to avoid disorder that could be dangerous for the people during the demonstrations.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Vides] [Words indistinct] he spoke only of their area of responsibility.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] Why does the executive branch not expose them beforehand? The general impression is that the military chiefs themselves cause the impatience.

[Vides] I believe that everyone should be a little more responsible. When one is of a lower rank, the lower the rank the more violent one tends to be. When one assumes responsibility, one is more prudent. I believe our responsibility is to try to talk as much as possible with our troops and our policemen to maintain peace and quiet. Going from calm to violence takes a matter of seconds. It could be caused by an order from us or by a provocation from the demonstrators. However, what is going to vindicate us later is people's testimony and observations from the media about our attempts to maintain peace [words indistinct].

Nevertheless, all the pressure from the people, the various organizations, and the political parties leads to the opinion that we must provide more order. I believe the Salvadoran people are gradually realizing that just as they have a right to express themselves, they also have limitations. I do not

see how we can continue to permit demonstrations by masked people. Although the Constitution guarantees freedom of expression, it also holds us responsible for what we say. But how can you hold someone responsible who is wearing a mask? We can constitutionally demand that anyone participating in demonstrations not be allowed to wear handkerchiefs and not to bear arms because the Constitution does not authorize them to do so. However, we are trying to do this legally.

[Reporter] Has the Army changed much in its struggle against the FMLN?

[Vides] You know about the people plan [plan pueblo]. They have not been able to develop this plan, which consisted of mass actions, general insurrection, and destruction of military installations when they were weak, they said, because we were watching over the whole electoral process. Nevertheless, you have seen that all this has not happened.

The subversion is now preparing two or three spectacular actions in which they are going to use specific means. Sometimes it is difficult to foresee these blows. We are taking every precaution. But they have no more capacity than this. They can declare a transportation stoppage and blow up electricity towers. I believe the greatest lesson they learned was their destruction when they took up the political and mass struggle. Their greatest defeat was the political defeat by the people in the last election.

One of the relatively new parties, the Nationalist Republican Alliance, has managed to rally its forces and has achieved power in less than 5 years. If you look at this realistically, you will realize that the subversion has achieved no power at all—executive, legislative, or judicial—with all its weapons and 10 years of struggle. Nevertheless, political participation with the support of the Armed Forces has permitted a political party to achieve power. Perhaps tomorrow another will achieve a majority in the Assembly or perhaps win the Presidency. [end recording]

Honduras

Mexico, Venezuela Temporarily Suspend Trade

PA2807162388 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1341 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 28 Jul (ACAN-EFE)—Today it was reported here that Mexico and Venezuela have temporarily suspended trade with Honduras due to the latter's noncompliance with its financial commitments.

Trade has been paralyzed for several weeks and will return to normal when Honduras makes its payments.

Honduras has delayed payments because of a foreign exchange shortfall. Although the amount owed to Mexico and Venezuela has not been disclosed, it was learned that payments will be made in the next 2 weeks.

Among other products, Honduras imports oil from Mexico and Venezuela; however, oil shipments have not been suspended because Honduras is up to date in its payments for those services.

Azcona on C.A. Peace Efforts, Nicaragua

PM2807103388 Madrid ABC in Spanish 21 Jul 88 p 32

[Report on interview with President Jose Azcona by Jose Melgarejo in Tegucigalpa—date not given]

[Text] Tegucigalpa—The latest developments in the Central American area seem to indicate that peace remains far off on the horizon: The Sandinist regime has restricted public freedoms in Nicaragua even further, relations between Managua and Washington are at their lowest ebb following the expulsion of ambassadors, and the contras have also radicalized their stances through the inclusion of their military leader, Enrique Bermudez, in their political directorate.

Managua has also pointed a finger at Honduras, which it accuses of "destabilizing the region" by allowing armed groups to operate from its territory; an accusation which President Azcona categorically rejects:

"I wish to tell you that we are destabilizing nobody here. We live in a democracy and have very clear ideas about what this means and what freedoms—press freedom, public freedom, and so forth—are. We have said this repeatedly; that if there are counterrevolutionaries in Nicaragua it is precisely because there has been no opportunity for a domestic political solution. On signing the Esquipulas II agreement, and after confirming it in greater detail at a meeting which we had in San Jose on 15 January, President Ortega undertook irrevocably and immediately to carry out the agreements. Therefore, excuses at this stage are no longer valid, no longer have any value. There was definitely talk there of a general amnesty, of lifting the state of emergency, and of internal reconciliation of the Nicaraguan families, as we have done in Honduras."

[Melgarejo] Mr President, Managua sometimes complains that the Honduran Government is interfering in its internal affairs...

[Azcona] We confine ourselves to pointing out that President Ortega and his government should honor the pledges to accelerate reconciliation and to be prepared even to leave power if they do not win it through the polls. That is in fact what we state without wishing to annoy anybody. Quite the contrary, we are prepared to make our contribution to achieve the pacification of Central America, which is primarily an internal pacification because there is no war between states here. Honduras maintains diplomatic relations with Nicaragua, we sell it electricity, we have trade

relations. In due course they partly carried out the agreements, but not fully and immediately as the Costa Rica agreement says. Nevertheless, we do not wish to lose faith that it will be carried out.

[Melgarejo] What are the major interests that do not allow final peace really to be found in Central America, and specifically in Nicaragua?

[Azcona] I believe that dogmatic stances have a great deal to do with it. It seems to me that President Ortega's stance has changed over the past year, but it is ideas of power which in fact prevent a political opening. For democrats power is temporary, it is relative. However, there are people with other ideologies who have a rather different idea: I am referring not solely to the Marxists; there are people who espouse right-wing ideologies and believe that power is indefinite and absolute. All these things, of course, prevent political openings. Personally speaking, if I do not win the elections in 1989, I will hand over power to a president elected by the people.

[Melgarejo] Do you believe that after the elections in the United States there will be a substantial change in that country's policy toward Central America?

[Azcona] I do not believe there will be a substantial change. I believe there is a pause in the United States to see whether Nicaragua will honor the latest pledges. It seems to me that there is an attitude of respect for the Central American presidents' decision which is very praiseworthy, because it gives us presidents a greater standing, a higher profile. Nevertheless, unless there is a political solution in Nicaragua, I do not believe the U.S. stance with respect to that country will change greatly. It must always be borne in mind that Nicaragua is on the continent of America, is at the center, and spans the two oceans. It is undoubtedly an enclave, a buffer state, and I greatly doubt whether—whoever the president is or whatever the complexion of the next U.S. Government—they will be content with that situation. It seems to me that Nicaragua should seek reconciliation and the political solution which we all desire, because we wish the Nicaraguans—whether or not they are Sandinists—no harm.

[Melgarejo] In the event of a hypothetical confrontation with Nicaragua, would the Honduran people and Army be prepared for that?

[Azcona] I wish to tell you that we have never even remotely considered that. I have often said so: We will never attack Nicaragua or allow an attack on Nicaragua from Honduras. That is a very different matter from Nicaraguan fighters having been able to enter and leave Honduras, because, after all, they are Nicaraguans who are fighting for what they believe they should fight for in their country.

Azcona on U.S. Cooperation, Local Politics

PA2807130288 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1120 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Interview with President Jose Azcona Hoyo by Jose Rolando Sarmiento; date and place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Sarmiento] There is some concern because the Honduran representative at the International Court of Justice [ICJ] at The Hague [Carlos Roberto Reina], where Honduras is settling a case with El Salvador, is currently in Honduras involved in political activities.

[Azcona] I believe he is a valuable man and that is why we chose him to be the Honduran representative at the ICJ. However, we live in a free country. Reina is a presidential candidate. If he currently believes he has a chance of being elected president, I will not prevent him from having such aspirations.

[Sarmiento] The polarization of forces within the Liberal Party almost made you lose the presidential elections to [Rafael Leonardo] Callejas. This situation continues and Liberals are concerned about this.

[Azcona] Look, I said that when there are fewer candidates, it is easier to unite the Liberal Party. This is almost a foregone conclusion, and I believe it has to be that way. Some candidates have withdrawn. I believe there were seven Liberal Party candidates but now only four remain. [passage omitted]

[Sarmiento] There is an economic crisis, especially in the government, but people say you are doing nothing about it.

[Azcona] The figures are there; we are not inventing them. Public spending has increased because the education, health, and housing budgets have increased. We have only increased investments. Education and health are all investments. That is why the overall budget has increased. However, other public expenditures have not increased.

[Sarmiento] People are saying that the president is not in control and that ministers are doing what they want.

[Azcona] [Laughs] Those people should tell me which ministers are not following my orders. I can assure you that I am not a tyrant, but I know how to give orders. If I call them up at 1800 or 1900, most of the ministers answer my call; they are in their offices. Do not believe everything you hear. People like to cast aspersions on those who are at the top. That is normal and human. When one gets to a certain position, one resembles a pinata. [passage omitted]

[Sarmiento] How about cooperation with the U.S. Government to fight drug trafficking?

[Azcona] We are working on agreements to help them fight drug trafficking, especially with regard to the surveillance of our airspace and waters. We are also working on other agreements. We believe they should be signed, and we said this during Secretary of State George Shultz' visit.

Nicaragua

Ortega Letter to Arias on Esquipulas Agreement

PA2807144688 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1930 GMT 27 Jul 88

["Copy" of letter from President Daniel Ortega to Costa Rican President Oscar Arias—date not given]

[Text] Dear Mr President and friend:

More than 6 months have passed since our 16 January 1988 summit in Alajuela, Costa Rica, and the Executive Commission has not yet drafted a document establishing the steps for the necessary verification and follow-up of the agreements reached there, a matter stressed by us in the declaration released at that time.

We have noticed there is a growing disregard for the need to verify compliance with the agreements and a marked inclination to act as judge and jury, thus disregarding the need to ensure the objectivity and impartiality of the verification.

The lack of proper steps to verify the Esquipulas II agreement has hindered the smooth flow of information among the parties involved. This problem was not encountered with the International Verification and Follow-Up Commission, CIVS, because that group carried out the duties we assigned it.

Even though the Nicaraguan Government has not received information on any important steps that could have been implemented in other Central American countries in compliance with the Esquipulas II agreement, my country has provided ample information on measures taken by Nicaragua.

Last March, the National Reconciliation Commission issued a document [constancia] that was handed to all Central American foreign ministers at the fifth meeting of the Executive Commission in Guatemala.

Also, the international press has amply reported that the Nicaraguan Government has taken a number of steps to reach a final cease-fire, going further than other area governments have.

Those efforts have been systematically sabotaged by the U.S. Government, which is intent on spoiling the Sapoa accord. It is nurturing intransigent negotiations and is directly promoting a break in the suspension of offensive military operations. This behavior has prevented a continuation of negotiations on an overall proposal of 32 points, 20 of which have already been approved.

Dear Mr President, the fact that the presidential summit cannot take place on 7 August deprives us from taking advantage of that meeting, which would have taken place on the 1st anniversary of the signing of the Esquipulas II accords, to discuss important tasks that are still before us, including a restructuring of the verification, control, and follow-up mechanisms.

Given these circumstances, the Nicaraguan Government believes a very significant way to observe this anniversary would be for the Central American presidents to entrust the UN and OAS secretaries general and the Contadora and Support Group foreign ministers with the verification of the Esquipulas II accords.

With this purpose in mind, and for the sake of ensuring the necessary impartiality and objectivity, there must be a clear differentiation between the duties of this group and those given to the Central American foreign ministers, who as members of the Executive Commission should limit their duties to facilitating verification duties of the Group of 10. In hopes that on 7 August we will reaffirm the political determination to achieve peace that led us to sign Esquipulas II, I salute you [words indistinct].

Greets Peru's Garcia

PA2807165788 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Message from President Daniel Ortega to Peruvian President Alan Garcia—date and place not given]

[Text] Dear Mr President and friend:

On the occasion of the commemoration of the 167th anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Peru, I wish to convey on behalf of the Nicaraguan people and government, and in my own name, our warm greetings.

The values and principles heroically defended by our peoples during their struggle for independence have resurfaced to face the forces that threaten Latin Americans' legitimate right of self-determination.

I would like to take this opportunity to renew our desire to work together to strengthen Latin American unity and solidarity, a desire that has always been present in the brother peoples of Tupac Amaru, Victor Raul Haya de la Torre, and the people of Sandino.

Fraternally,
[Signed] President Daniel Ortega Saavedra

Pastora Announces Plans To Return to Managua
PA2807190988 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2115 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Text] San Jose, Costa Rica, 27 Jul (ACAN-EFE)—Today former anti-Sandinist guerrilla leader Eden Pastora announced here the reorganization of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance political forces to prepare for a return to Nicaragua to fight in the civilian arena against the "remnants" of the war in his country.

Speaking at a news conference, Pastora, better known as Commander Cero, said: "Never before has there been a greater need for a national movement, a broad political alternative in which all sectors interested in peace, progress, and the development of Nicaragua can participate."

Pastora, who gained notoriety after storming the National Palace (at the time, Nicaragua's parliament) on 22 August 1978, with about 20 men, thereby contributing to Anastasio Somoza's downfall a year later, said the first step toward achieving his goal is "to go to Managua."

He added: "There, we will begin talks with all political, labor, business, religious, and ethnic groups, to make them aware of our thoughts and goals, and to exchange views on the importance of a national movement."

In addition, Pastora said the "first step" of this "national movement" is to fight to bring an end to "the fratricidal and demonstratably useless, sterile, and painful war" that serves as "a pretext for totalitarianism to suffocate democracy" and as "a means of enrichment for unscrupulous Nicaraguans."

Pastora, who, after 3 years, abandoned the armed struggle against the Nicaraguan Government and sought asylum in Costa Rica in 1986, did not specify the date of his return to Managua, although he hinted that it might be on 15 September, the 167th anniversary of Central America's independence.

He dismissed the possibility of traveling to Managua on 22 August, the 10th anniversary of the storming of the National Palace, which he had announced a few days before, adding that the conditions are not right for his return due to the Nicaraguan Government's "hard line and the lack of a permanent cease-fire and a general amnesty."

The former guerrilla commander, who describes himself as a Sandinist, nationalist, and revolutionary, indicated that he had been in contact with Sandinist representatives who visited him in Costa Rica, where he makes a living fishing in the Pacific Ocean, but he denied that he had reached an agreement with those representatives, arguing that the decisions are made by the FSLN National Directorate, which "is in Managua."

He said the current "imperative" is to organize Nicaraguan exiles and take them to Managua on foot, in a march from San Jose (about 550 km), to fight for peace in Nicaragua and put an end to the "remnants" of the war.

Pastora accused the Nicaraguan Resistance of failing to achieve "a single political or military victory in the face of the manifest rejection of the people," and he stated that the "contra" plan has revealed "without disguise, its true militarist face, after removing the civil mask that it has so often hidden behind."

Southern Front Leaders on Bermudez Rejection
PA2807160488 Paris AFP in Spanish 2042 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Report by Arturo Gudino]

[Text] Rio San Juan, Nicaragua, 27 Jul (AFP)—The general staff of the anti-Sandinist guerrillas operating in southern Nicaragua has appealed "to the democratic and progressive sectors" of the Nicaraguan Resistance (RN) to disavow the current Directorate, which former Somozist Colonel Enrique Bermudez joined 2 weeks ago.

The appeal was made by four of the seven members of the southern front's general staff, including General Commander Pedro Lara (Ganso), at a news conference held near the San Juan River, on the Costa Rican border.

The southern front, which claims to have 2,700 guerrillas, 40 percent of the RN's military forces, broke away from the RN on 19 July, 1 day after Enrique Bermudez was named the RN's general commander.

The rebel military chiefs said the break was not only due to the appointment of Bermudez, considered by them "a radical Somozist," but by the fact that "we have been abandoned. For months we have not received medicine, ammunition, or food."

Several hundred southern front guerrillas fell back during the last few weeks to Nicaragua's southern border to try to obtain medicine and medical attention through Costa Rica, "which is very difficult due to President (Oscar) Arias' policy," said the guerrilla chiefs, referring to Costa Rica's neutrality.

The guerrillas built small camps along the border, where some are surviving under great hardship, sick from malaria or hepatitis, with their boots in tatters and their uniforms in shreds.

"From a material standpoint we are in a desperate situation. Since May 1984, when the United States approved $100 million in aid for the guerrillas, we have only received $5.5 million in arms and food, which amounts to 1 and ½ bullets a day for each fighter," said Pedro Rafa, one of the general staff members. He added that this year they have received none of the humanitarian aid approved by the U.S. Congress.

The rebel chief said this reflects Col Bermudez' intention of eliminating the southern front, perhaps "because we do not pretend to replace a leftist dictatorship with a rightist dictatorship, but with a truly democratic revolution, which is what every Nicaraguan fought for in 1979," when the Sandinists achieved victory.

At the present time, a large number of the southern front forces that have traditionally operated in the Rio San Juan, Chontales, and southern and central Zelaya Departments are struggling to stay alive.

Facing the heavy seasonal rains and located in swampy territory unsuited for crops, the guerrillas must make do with rations of cooked plantains, sometimes accompanied with rice and beans and perhaps a cup of coffee with sugar.

The most critically ill are taken to Costa Rica across the river in old, dangerous dugouts for transfer to Ciudad Quesada, 150 km from the border, or to San Jose, running the risk of being captured by Costa Rican authorities.

"We do not even have aspirin for a headache, and some fighters have died as a result of small bullet wounds because we have no way to help them. Our resources are almost nil," said Commander Ganso.

For the southern front's general staff, the promotion of Bermudez to the seven-member Directorate represents a turn "to the extreme right, unacceptable for the democratic sectors. This seriously damages the international image of the armed opposition in Nicaragua."

In this respect, the fighters are hopeful in the next few days "the Social Democrats, Social Christians, and unions that make up the RN will rebel against Bermudez and decide to leave the group."

"Our idea is to join forces with the democratic and progressive groups, and if necessary we would establish a new organization," said Pedro Rafa.

They said they would return to the RN only if Bermudez is removed from the Directorate and resigns as general military commander.

However, they did not discard an eventual alliance with Eden Pastora, who led the southern front until 1986, although they stressed it "would be difficult because with Pastora one never knows what is going to happen. One day he says one thing and the next day he says something completely different."

Finally, the rebel leaders insisted they will not abandon the military struggle because "we trust that the moderate sectors will triumph and be recognized as the legitimate representatives of the struggle against the Sandinist dictatorship."

LA PRENSA Vows To Continue Editorial Policy

PA2907130488 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 27 Jul 88 p 2

[Editorial: "Our Duty Today"]

[Text] Since LA PRENSA reappeared on 1 October, we recognized that the miracle of our rebirth originated from the strength of Esquipulas II. Therefore, our commitment to the Nicaraguan people meant "promoting the negotiated cease-fire and national reconciliation based on democratization, the sole guarantee of a lasting peace."

At that time, we believed the Sandinist government had reached the conclusion that the only way to end the armed and violent struggle was opening the path for peaceful struggle. The denial of the peaceful struggle is precisely what caused the growth and development of the Nicaraguan civil war.

For that reason, from the 1st day, we strongly and firmly pushed for dialogue, negotiation, frank discussion of diverse political ideologies and thinking, free movement for political parties and civilian groups, and amendments to the Constitution that are indispensable for institutionalizing democracy.

For taking this stand, however, we have been slandered, criticized, and punished. For President Daniel Ortega's government, supporting compliance with Esquipulas II means that we are "subservient" and deserve an unjust sanction of a 15-day closure against our will. We will not tire of protesting that order before the civilized world.

We know we have not been perfect. We have neglected covering some developments due to a lack of reporters or vehicles. We have perhaps been careless with some headlines because we were concentrating on finding paper. It is not easy for our newsmen and technicians to work under a daily threat and to be exposed to the whims of power.

Despite the difficulties imposed on us by the Sandinist dictatorship, however, LA PRENSA will always continue keeping its pages open to those who have no means of expression in the face of arbitrariness and arrogance.

LA PRENSA will continue publishing the opinion of democrats, be they Nicaraguans or foreigners, who side with our struggle for the recovery of public liberties.

LA PRENSA will continue being a critic of rifle butts, clubs, and bullets, which are the only things that people with force but without justice can offer.

LA PRENSA will continue to be LA PRENSA in the search for peace and happiness for all Nicaraguans.

Today that imperious ban has been lifted, and we are allowed to return to the generous hands of the Nicaraguan people. We reiterate our commitment to the Esquipulas II accords, and we renew our belief in a negotiated solution to the Nicaraguan conflict.

Tunnermann on Visa Denial, New U.S. Envoy
PA2807022788 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1930 GMT 26 Jul 88

["Exclusive" interview with Carlos Tunnermann, former Nicaraguan ambassador to the United States, by unidentified reporter; date and place not given—recorded]

[Reporter] Dr Carlos Tunnermann, what are your views concerning the U.S. Government's decision to reject your application for a visa to travel to the U.S. capital?

[Tunnermann] That rejection, which was relayed to me by means of a diplomatic note from the U.S. Embassy in Managua, is another violation of the OAS Charter by the United States, because under the charter, as host country of the organization, the United States is obligated to provide all possible assistance to the representatives of the member countries.

It is one thing to have been the ambassador to Washington. It is a very different thing to be Nicaragua's delegate and permanent representative at the OAS.

In addition, I had been chosen to serve on the inter-American panel of judges that met today in Washington to study the nominations submitted by member countries for the Andres Bello Inter-American Award in Education. The panel is made up of three members; however, since my application for a visa was rejected by the U.S. Government, I cannot take part in that panel. Thus, a body within the OAS is prevented from functioning with all of its members, as required by the organization's bylaws.

With this measure, the United States is setting a precedent that is going to cause—as it has already caused—concern among all countries in the region. This is in fact the case since the charter foresees the possibility—the charter very wisely anticipated the possibility—that bilateral problems could arise between the United States, the host country, and any of the organization's member states. In those cases, the charter stipulates that the host country, the United States, is obligated to allow the representatives of any member state to enter the host country, to recognize all the diplomatic immunities of those representatives, and to provide all manner of assistance to them, even though a member state might have bilateral problems with the host country. Therefore, bilateral problems must not affect the multilateral relations that exist between the member states and the OAS.

[Reporter] Doctor, let us turn to the time when there was the problem, mentioned by some representatives of Latin American countries, regarding the concept known as a legal vacuum. How do you view this matter?

[Tunnermann] There is no legal vacuum, because the charter is clear. What is lacking is a host-country agreement between the OAS and the U.S. Government. There is no such agreement because the United States has been putting off making a decision on the host-country agreement. This is unlike the situation with the United Nations, which does have a host-country agreement with the U.S. Government.

However, the United States has been postponing the discussion of a host-country agreement with the OAS. If there is no host-country agreement, the OAS Charter is what must rule all issues, and the charter cannot be modified by a simple bilateral agreement that has existed since 20 March 1975. That agreement is called the "Agreement on Immunity and Privileges." It is not a host-country agreement, but a mere agreement on immunities and privileges, which cannot go against what is established by the OAS Charter because the charter is an international treaty signed and ratified by all the OAS member-countries.

[Reporter] Mr Tunnermann, what measures will the Nicaraguan Government take concerning the official U.S. Government refusal to issue you a visa?

[Tunnermann] Yesterday the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry received the official note from the U.S. Embassy. In the coming hours, it will release the official position of our government on the new refusal on the part of the United States to abide by the OAS Charter.

[Reporter] Mr Tunnermann, let us change the subject. We would like to know what you think of the message sent by the U.S. assistant secretary of state to the contra leaders to prevent a split within the movement.

[Tunnermann] That shows the United States continues to direct and provide guidelines for the counterrevolution. [4-second break in reception] the United States started financing the group of former National Guardsmen. It then organized the FDN, created the civilian cover for what was called the united opposition, and it has now created the contra Directorate. All that has been directed and sponsored by the U.S. Government. Mr Elliott Abrams and the CIA itself have been involved in the recent creation of the contra Directorate.

In exercising the rights granted by the Vienna Convention, the Nicaraguan Government decided to declare Ambassador Melton persona non grata, because he was interfering in Nicaraguan internal affairs. Ambassador Melton was indeed interfering in our internal affairs. [Ambassador Melton's actions] only confirmed something that is very clear: For over 8 years, since the triumph of the revolution, the United States has been trying to interfere with our people's destiny and with [Nicaragua's] irrevocable decision to develop an independent, revolutionary process, thereby fully exercising its sovereignty.

That has been the U.S. policy toward Nicaragua. It has interfered in our internal affairs, and it has been financing, directing, and strengthening the counterrevolution. The United States chooses the contra leaders. It devises ways to reconcile them when they fight among themselves. The contras are creatures of the U.S. State Department and the CIA. They are a creation of the Reagan administration, and Mr Abrams' most recent trip proves it.

The U.S. Government's political will has translated itself into frequent and permanent interference in Nicaraguan internal affairs. Our political will is to reject that interference, because it attacks our sovereignty and right to self-determination.

[Reporter] Mr Tunnermann, international dispatches coming from Washington have reported that sources cited by THE BOSTON GLOBE commented on the trip of Jack Leonard, who has been appointed first secretary of the U.S. Embassy in Managua. This gentleman is considered one of the White House hawks. What is your opinion on this?

[Tunnermann] The problem is that until recently, that gentlemen—who is already in Managua acting as the U.S. Embassy charge d'affaires—was administrating aid for the counterrevolution. In other words, he was the one in charge of the aid program for the counterrevolutionaries.

This proves that the same political policy continues, that Ambassador Melton's policy—which is Mr Abrams' policy and the policy of all those ideologists who can only think of military solutions to resolve problems—continues. They only think in terms of a counterrevolutionary option and not of a civilized dialogue or negotiation. They are blocking all peace efforts; they hindered the Contadora Group. They also went to incredible lengths to prevent Esquipulas II from making progress, and they also tried to destroy the Sapoa agreements.

[Reporter] We would like to hear your views on the U.S. electoral process and more specifically on the statements made by Democratic candidate Michael Dukakis.

[Tunnermann] According to press reports, right now Democratic candidate Michael Dukakis is ahead of Republican candidate George Bush by 17 points in the surveys—that is, in the most recent surveys published by NEWSWEEK and THE WASHINGTON POST. Dukakis has a 17-percent lead over Bush. That is very significant, although it was expected, because of the Democratic convention, because of the attention the convention attracted, and because of the skillful way in which Dukakis handled the convention, during which he succeeded in selecting a conservative vice presidential running mate that will gain him the support of Democratic conservatives.

Dukakis also has the support of Democratic liberals and the sectors that supported Jesse Jackson. Dukakis also united the convention and showed the U.S. voters that the Democratic Party is united for the elections. Dukakis also showed that he is really the leader of his party and that he can maintain its unity. All this was reflected in the survey that put him 17 points ahead of Bush.

The Rebublican convention will be held in mid-August. Bush must choose his running mate, his vice president, then. Dukakis showed great ability at choosing his vice president. [12-second break in reception]

Minister Henry Ruiz Addresses CEMA Meeting

PA2807222388 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 22 Jul 88 p 3

[Speech by Commander of the Revolution Henry Ruiz, foreign cooperation minister, at the 44th annual CEMA meeting in Prague, Czechoslovakia, on 5 July]

[Text] Comrade Strougal, dear Comrades: When socialist community countries speak of solidarity and the struggle for causes, such as the material and spiritual progress of the people, of peace, international cooperation, peaceful coexistence, and negotiated solutions, we are filled with deep feelings of solidarity and a willingness to struggle.

Ever since my small Central American nation joined CEMA as an interested observer and had the opportunity to be present at these high-level government sessions, we have witnessed the intensity with which the problems of progress, peace, and cooperation among nations have been discussed. We have noted your faith in the future.

Comrade President, we are certain that this 44th CEMA session will be a success and will contribute to the strengthening of the people's and humanity's progressive tendencies. Here it is through science, progress, peace, and firmness that we state our love for socialism.

Comrade President, the presence here of my small country, Nicaragua, is the result of our people's struggle. Our presence here is in defiance of falsehood, exploitation, and crime. It is an act of rebellion against resignation and against the lies of those who, being powerful, have tried to paralyze us in the fatalistic chains of colonialism.

We can objectively state that the Sandinist people's revolution is an event and a symbol of this era in Latin American history. We, a small nation that struggles to secure our freedom and our opportunities to make progress, have had to face the United States in every form of struggle: political, diplomatic, and military. The United States, disregarding the censor of history, has found itself before the world's eyes playing its part in the David versus Goliath confrontation, the result of which everyone knows.

The struggle goes on. There are Contadora, the Group of Eight, Esquipulas, Sapoa....

There have been other peace initiatives. Some of them have been battered, others were successful. Today there is Reagan. Who will it be tomorrow? It does not matter. The result will be the same. David will win. Nicaragua will win. The progressive people of the world will win.

Comrades, the Nicaraguan people are backed by a record of struggle that gives us the capability of safeguarding and securing our 1979 victory. The Nicaraguan people have a vanguard that has studied the struggles of other peoples as well as revolutionary doctrine. The Nicaraguan people are realistically looking for a way to build a new life.

We have proposed negotiations to the U.S. Administration to resolve the main issues that the United States has seized in order to justify its criminal aggression against our people. Our proposals have been based on political facts and are humanitarian. We have made our proposals with frankness, realism, and firmness.

The U.S. mercenary aggression has already cost Nicaragua more than 50,000 lives and approximately $12.3 billion, or approximately 50 times the product of our exports last year.

The United States pays a price in the form of lost political prestige and coherence as well as in growing expenditures. Nicaragua will win. History makes this obvious, and a Nicaraguan victory is what the U.S. people and the progressive people of the world, especially our brothers from the socialist countries, are demanding. International law backs us.

Our people's struggle is showing our powerful neighbor that history is written neither by secret agent 007 nor by Rambo.

Paradoxically, the existence of the Sandinist people's revolution in Central America—an undeniable fact—is giving the United States the opportunity to coexist and to give a different treatment to countries it calls "allies" but that it despotically treats as slaves.

What we see today are manifestations of national dignity. Tomorrow, if the necessary changes do not take place, there will be violent social revolutions. It is obvious where our sympathies lie, but we act realistically.

Comrades, the degree of our communication at the government and party policy level allows me to take advantage of this 44th CEMA session to briefly recall some economic facts affecting our people:

—In 1987, inflation reached a level that very negatively affected the income of Nicaraguan workers and the poor;

—There was a severe drop in the production of staples, which negatively affected food supplies;

—War-related expenditures have remained constant in relation to the GNP (25 percent);

—Expenditures, in the form of consumption and investments, and an exchange system produced huge losses. That situation resulted in the circulation of a massive amount of money. That forced the revolutionary government to implement monetary reform that devalued the old cordoba and gave the new cordoba a new value in relation to the dollar.

Right now, despite the war impeding the existence of suitable conditions for the market to play a necessary price-system adjustment role, the revolutionary government has made progress in reforming economic mechanisms but has not been able to avoid a deterioration of salaries paid to the workers.

Summarizing: The effects of the war, the discriminatory measures of international financial organizations, and the deterioration of exchange prices have weakened the productive basis of the national economy. Therefore, the international cooperation received by our people, especially from the CEMA countries and particularly from the Soviet Union, has not been sufficient.

This is why when the war being maintained against our people by an obsessed U.S. President is called brutal, this characterization is not only rhetorical but correct.

Dear Comrades, the world has entered a new phase, and the current problems of development require a new approach and creative methods to deal with them and correctly resolve them. If we do this, peace and progress will win. However, based on what we have modestly learned, we can say an obsession for war and the lack of realism prevailing in some still-powerful sectors of imperialism that want to maintain the old order make it obligatory for us to resolutely work to overcome the obstacles to peace. We have to get rid of illusions and not naively think changes will be easy. The detente in the international arena is a result of necessities but is also the initial result of new approaches and methods.

With Sandinist enthusiasm, we greet the achievements secured in the field of detente. It is clear the achievements were secured as a result of the tenacity and audacity of Comrade Mikhail Gorbachev, the rest of the leaders of the socialist community, and the progressive and democratic people of the world.

Comrades, as guests of this 44th CEMA session, we have seen the progress in the process to renovate socialism. We are happy to acknowledge your achievements and trust that adequate solutions will be found to the many remaining problems, especially the most important ones, for the benefit of all.

Dear Comrades, I do not want to conclude without expressing our gratitude for the latest gesture of revolutionary solidarity by Cuba toward our country, aware as

we are of the economic difficulties that country is presently experiencing. Cuba has gone beyond its traditional cooperation: It has forgiven our debt; it has sent us 270,000 metric tons of cement; it has sent us, among other goods, raw material and equipment; and it has given us technical assistance to conclude projects of key importance for the Nicaraguan economy, which currently is paralyzed. The value of this cooperation has been estimated at approximately $150 million.

Comrades, we are certain that this 44th CEMA session will be a success. We thank our host for the friendly and comradelike solicitousness with which we have been treated.

To the Czechoslovak people, to communist Czechoslovaks, to Comrade Jakes, to you, Comrade Strougal, we say: Thank you very much.

Panama

Reaction to Report of New United States Plan

General Noriega Comments

PA2907035888 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0310 GMT 29 Jul 88

[Text] Panama City, 28 Jul (DPA)—Today Panama Defense Forces [FDP] chief General Manuel Antonio Noriega downplayed the importance of the new Reagan administration threats to carry out paramilitary actions against him to force him to leave the military institution.

Although he avoided giving detailed statements on the issue, Noriega said that "he does not worry about those things," [quotation marks as received] adding that "the United States should be wondering about what the Panamanians are planning."

An article in yesterday's THE WASHINGTON POST said the U.S. Government has a new plan to force Noriega to leave the FDP command.

Gen Noriega, who was a special guest at the opening [as received] of the International Seminar on Electoral Administration, held for members of the Panamanian Electoral Tribunal and political party members, promised to promote free and honest elections in 1989.

Solis Palma

PA2907031888 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 0228 GMT 29 Jul 88

[Interview with Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency, and General Manuel Antonio Noriega by Jairo Posada at the closing of the first International Seminar on Electoral Administration held at the Riande Continental Hotel in Panama City on 28 July—live or recorded]

[Text] [Posada] President Reagan has announced covert actions against Panama. What do you think about this?

[Solis] There are two aspects to this. If they intend to carry it out, I think it would be very reckless of them to do so, and we would condemn it. If they are simply trying to enhance their political image, I also believe it is an action that should not be employed. They would undoubtedly be sowing unrest, which would always have a negative effect on the country. I believe it is a very negative and regrettable action, because we are talking about the leader of one of the countries with the responsibility of leading the democratic world, of that formal democracy, to which I have so often referred. Because they have that role, they must act calmly, should disregard temporary passions, and not resort to this kind of talk just to support a certain candidate.

[Posada] The president has said there will be clean and honest elections. Are the Panama Defense Forces committed to this?

[Noriega] He said that on behalf of the entire government.

[Posada] General, what will the result be of the soccer match between Panama and Costa Rica [on 31 July]?

[Noriega] It will be a very close game, but the final score will be three goals to two. We are playing for the opening of the borders. If we win, President Oscar Arias will have to open up the borders.

OAS Ambassador

PA2807192088 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1810 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Speech by Ambassador to the OAS Roberto Leyton at the OAS Permanent Council in Washington, D.C., on 27 July—recorded]

[Text] The Panamanian delegation takes this opportunity to express its deep concern over a report published by THE WASHINGTON POST today saying the U.S. President has signed legislation authorizing covert actions to oust or kidnap Panamanian Government officials.

We want to stress that such operations are dangerous and add to the U.S. aggression that my country has suffered from. We have to relate this report to an article published in THE NEW YORK TIMES signed by Mr Elliott Abrams. Discussing policy in Latin America, he says, among other things, that multilateralism should not be the instrument for political development and a peaceful resolution of controversies.

My country, which is deeply concerned about this situation, lacks the means to deal with operations of this kind. We reserve the right to go to the appropriate forums of the inter-American system. We want to reiterate the deep concern of my people and government. Thank you.

MATUTINO Columnist

PA2807150788 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 28 Jul 88 p 5

[From the "Fausto's Mailbox" column by Jorge E. Ramirez: "Panama As a War Trophy"]

[Excerpts] A few days ago we analyzed the remarks made by leading figures of the Democratic Party at the party's recent national convention in Atlanta, Georgia. Senator Edward Kennedy, presidential candidate Michael Dukakis, and vice presidential candidate Lloyd Bentsen harshly lashed out at the corrupt and corrupting administration of the astrologer of 'Ali Baba's cave; that is to say, George Bush, the current and infamous U.S. vice president and presidential candidate. [passage omitted]

Just as we said at that time, the reactions of Mr Reagan and his advisers are the result of their advanced age, particularly Mr Shultz, the living fossil who directs U.S. foreign relations, who is guided by the reports of Elliott Abrams, an ambitious and ignorant person, completely devoid of human feelings. [passage omitted]

The advisers of Mr Reagan's corrupt administration have not stopped to think that, first, the Democrats want the problem in Panama resolved before January, when they will take power if they win the elections. In addition, any covert action that the astrologer's administration takes against Panama will also serve as ammunition for the Democrats' election campaign. The astrologer and his government, including Bush, will be accused of violating civil and human rights and interfering in the domestic affairs of a free, independent, and sovereign nation.

Just as former President Jimmy Carter said during the National Democratic Convention, "the big powers should not use their might to impose their will on weak nations."

But the Republicans are adrift, so to speak, in this election campaign. Mr Bush was off to a bad start in his response to the Democrat's strength. He met with a group representing women voters. And he put out his hoof, not his foot. He offered a trifle in exchange for the equal rights and opportunities that women demand.

The women voiced their preference for Dukakis. And the number of women voters exceeds the number of male voters by 10 million in the United States. This is why both Bush and Reagan are desperate. A wounded tiger is dangerous because, although he has no teeth, he still has his claws. Panama is a perfect scapegoat and its head can be shown as a war trophy to the gullible U.S. voters. [passage omitted]

Solis Palma Comments on Elections at Seminar

PA2907014088 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 0011 GMt 29 Jul 88

[Speech by Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency, at the closing of the International Electoral Administration Seminar at the Riande Continental Airport Hotel in Panama City—live]

[Text] General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP], and members of its staff; state ministers; Yolanda Pulice de Rodriguez, Electoral Tribunal magistrate-president; Carlos Augusto Villalaz, attorney general of Panama; Luis Carlos Chen, Electoral Tribunal magistrate; directors of decentralized institutions; Dr Fausto Perez Vergara, magistrate-president of Ecuador's Supreme Electoral Tribunal; (Cuna-Yala Cahuidi), general Indian chief; honorable legislator Virgilio Saenz; honorable legislator Rigoberto Paredes; honorable alternate legislators; Carlos A. Bonilla, Electoral Tribunal secretary general; Dr Aurelio Correa, Electoral Tribunal electoral prosecutor; members of the consultation commissions for the issuance of identification cards, electoral organization, legislation, and civil registry; seminar participants; Electoral Tribunal officials; political party representatives; special guests; journalists; ladies and gentlemen:

This international seminar on electoral administration is, particularly at the present time, invaluably important. It is living and irrefutable proof of the interest of the Electoral Tribunal, the national government, and all government branches to hold free, broad, and honest elections on 7 May 1989, elections in which all Panamanian political sectors will have the opportunity to express their will to establish who will lead the destiny of the Panamanian nation for the 1989-1994 5-year period.

There is ample clear evidence of the interest shown by the Electoral Tribunal over the past few years in improving the electoral process of May 1989. Of 1.3 million possible voters, as of this moment, more than 10 months before the elections, the Electoral Tribunal has cleared 1,109,000. This is a far better figure than that registered at this point in past elections.

The Panamanian Electoral Tribunal has not limited itself to improving all its internal operations and to introducing new techniques to its offices. It has also tried to work beyond our homeland's borders. That is why we are here today closing a seminar in which various Latin American brothers have participated. They have come here to exchange experiences to further improve our electoral process, which is so important for us.

I am not—and I have reiterated this several times—the kind of person who thinks that the strengthening of democracy is based exclusively on the electoral process. In addition to its formal components, democracy also has real components, which are highly important for the handling of and respect for people's dignity.

The struggle to improve the standard of living, health, education, and food services, working conditions, and the participation not only in elections, but in the country's daily life, is what an authentic democracy is all about. No one can deny that those essential democratic elements exist and have been strengthened in our country, although some refuse to admit it.

That, of course, does not diminish the pride or interest we should have in the electoral process. When we presented the amendments to the Electoral Code to the Legislative Assembly, I said elections must be the basic element used to forge a democracy that will reflect the way in which a human society wants to live and coexist. The elections should be the battlefield upon which political parties, leaders, and citizens in general determine who will lead the country for the benefit of the community.

Our participation in the elections and the election itself are, therefore, the events around which all political sectors should gather, demonstrate their strength, and present the people with what they want for the country. Elections should resolve problems among Panamanians. No Panamanian patriot could choose otherwise. If we take another road, it is because we are not truly thinking of the homeland's interests, of our country's and our nation's interests.

The national government has reiterated its decision to hold rapid, free, and honest elections. I am saying this in front of the commander of the Panama Defense Forces and his General Staff, because they also share, with all the government branches, this firm and unquestionable [insospechable] decision to give the country free and honest elections—elections that will serve as a basis for choosing the future government of the Republic of Panama. Power will be turned over to whoever wins the elections.

It is there that they must go to show their capacity, strength, and desire to serve the Republic.

There is a certain fact that goes beyond all ideas, subjectivity, and passion. It is the undeniable fact that man and groups are the product of circumstances. The same circumstances that prevailed in the past elections will not rule the upcoming elections. We must keep in mind that many political parties had not participated in elections. We were employing a new electoral law for the first time. New procedures were established. Logically, this situation had to entail difficulties in implementing the electoral process.

Enrique Victoria [Televisora Nacional newsreader] said it very well: Perfection only belongs to God. Nothing is perfect. There is no perfect electoral process, no matter how perfect or good an electoral court or an electoral law may be. This does not mean we should not worry about having an electoral court with all necessary elements to function efficiently. This does not mean we should not have an electoral law to prevent to the utmost any impediment or delay in the electoral process.

However, way above whatever the electoral law may contain or the electoral court may be, we also have the actions of the political parties, candidates, and everyone participating in the electoral process. The perfection or the closest thing to perfection of the electoral process will depend on all the participants and not on just one factor or sector in it.

Someone said the amendments sent to the National Legislative Assembly were not substantial. We did what we deemed would correct the deficiencies detected during the implementation of the 1984 elections. However, the amendments are still subject to changes by legislators who may introduce the substance some say the amendments lack. Nothing prevents a legislator from proposing the amendments he deems appropriate, especially during the first debate.

The crisis: Without seeking solutions to problems, they turn to negative actions. Negativism does not benefit anyone. Let opposition legislators introduce the amendments they feel would give substance to the electoral law. We would be the first ones to approve any amendment that is positive and guarantees the electoral process. However, we must get to work on this and cast aside the negative stance experienced in the past years of the Republic.

Existing conditions are more propitious for the development of the electoral process. I think this is the appropriate time to invite all the country's political groups to participate in the elections. They should not be speaking ahead of time of fraud that will not take place. They should have sufficient electoral judges and participation in the electoral organizations that would assure them that the votes will be counted in an honest manner.

We believe it is important that the law calls for separate electoral poll documents [actas electorales] in the election for president, vice presidents, legislators, mayors—if it is decided they should run for election—councilmen, and representatives with the aim of getting the results faster. We would thereby be avoiding campaigns against honest elections.

Other changes aimed at improving the electoral process have been proposed. We believe it is important that all complaints lodged against the proclamations be resolved in order of importance: first the president, the vice presidents, legislators, mayors, councilmen, and representatives, so that in a short period of time the people can have the results of what has stirred much discussion and anxiety. The people want to know who wins the presidential and vice presidential elections.

I think it is really important to recognize the job done by the Electoral Tribunal. We must praise the participation of our Latin American brothers, who have brought us their experiences and who have exchanged ideas about the electoral process with us. We all have the responsibility of reassuring the people in these times; however, the national government and the FDP have assumed this

responsibility, and they promise the nation and the world that we will provide an example of what a clean and honest electoral process is, even though there will always be critics.

We are used to criticism and aggression, because Panama is made up of people who have shown their intelligence, strength, and deep love for the fatherland. On behalf of these people, on behalf of these noble people, and on behalf of all Panamanians, I declare this magnificent seminar closed, and I hope for the prosperity of the nation and for a democratic future of peace and tranquillity, which we are proposing and which all those who share the love for this Panamanian fatherland propose. Thank you very much. [applause]

Solis Palma Plans To Speak at UN in Sep
PA2907020588 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2252 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Text] United Nations, 28 Jul (EFE)—Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Panamanian Presidency, will visit the United Nations in September to participate in the General Assembly debate.

UN sources who requested not to be identified told EFE Solis Palma was the first Latin American leader to confirm his wish to speak at the Assembly.

Later, the chiefs of state of Venezuela, Jaime Lusinchi, and Nicaragua, Daniel Ortega, also reported their intention to participate in the forum.

In the provisional calendar being drafted at the General Secretariat, Solis Palma reserved an hour to speak during the second session of the debate, on 27 September.

Leonardo Kam, Panama's representative to the United Nations, confirmed his president's plan to participate in the Assembly but supplied no other details.

UN diplomatic circles are speculating about the U.S. attitude when the time comes to give a diplomatic visa to Solis Palma, whose government is not recognized by President Ronald Reagan's administration.

Ambassador Kam commented: "If the United States respects the headquarters agreements (which regulate the operation of the UN headquarters in New York), it must grant the visa to him," and he added: "I do not think there will be any problems."

Threat To Suspend Assembly Sessions Withdrawn
PA2907041788 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0245 GMT 29 Jul 88

[Text] Panama City, 28 Jul (DPA)—Legislative Assembly President Alberto Aleman Boyd withdrew his threat to suspend the holding of special sessions, following a meeting with Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency, and leaders of the official Democratic Revolutionary Party.

Aleman Boyd said that in the meeting "we made adjustments to the budget we had initially presented, and we have tightened our belts. We will hold the special sessions despite the country's economic situation."

Yesterday, Aleman Boyd criticized the president for not approving the allocation of funds to cover the expenses of the special sessions called by the executive to discuss electoral code reforms prior to the presidential and legislative elections scheduled for 7 May 1989.

In view of this situation, Aleman Boyd threatened to suspend the holding of special sessions if he did not receive within 48 hours a definite response that would allow him to hold the sessions.

Official on Government Payroll, Aid Requests
PA2807212588 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 28 Jul 88 p 3

[Article by Justa Guerrero de Henriquez]

[Text] Comptroller General Francisco Rodriguez estimates that the Panamanian Government has recovered about 1.5 million balboas a month by removing from the government's payroll reemployed retirees, people with two or three salaries, and people holding sinecures.

This amount, said Rodriguez, represents an annual savings of 14 million balboas for the Panamanian Government.

On another subject, Comptroller General Rodriguez said that despite the country's economic crisis, the government is meeting its payroll. However, he pointed out that the goverment will have to add to its budget the cost of maintaining and rehabilitating existing infrastructure.

Rodriguez stated that in order to continue these programs, government authorities continue to look for needed financial assistance from several European countries.

It should be noted that in past months, the comptroller general and the planning and economic policy minister traveled to Spain to look at possibilities of obtaining economic assistance from that country.

Rodriguez added that these endeavors to obtain the required assistance continue to be made.

New Advisory Panel To Prepare for Elections
PA2807182288 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 28 Jul 88 pp 1, 15

[Text] Decree No 74 of 27 July 1988, signed by President Manuel Solis Palma and Minister of the Presidency Nander A. Pitty Velasquez, has created the National Consultation and Political Advisory Commission within the executive branch.

Article 1 of the decree states that this executive branch consultative and advisory body has been created to provide consultations and to observe the implementation of past or future recommendations made by the National Dialogue Commission. The commission should devote its efforts and activities primarily to contributing to the preparations for the 1989 elections, within the framework of Panama's constitutional and legal systems.

The National Consultation and Political Advisory Commission will be composed of a principal and two alternates designated by the political parties and organizations that have participated in the National Dialogue Commission and any other political party or organization that asks to be included.

According to Article 3, the commission will have the following functions:

A. To make recommendations and suggestions designed to perfect the democratic regime and to ensure that the 1989 elections are carried out in an orderly way and with propriety and a civic spirit.

B. To dictate the rules for its own internal organization.

C. To carry out its activities in the best interests of the nation, refraining from proposing plans or recommendations that have a politically partisan, ideological, or professional slant, or that are in the personal, direct interest of any of the organizations or individual members of the commission.

D. Without detriment to the provisions of Paragraph B of this article, the commission will meet twice a week and for special sessions whenever circumstances warrant. Its sessions will be chaired by a representative chosen alphabetically and on a rotational basis, who will hold the position for 1 week.

The commission, whose members will be honorary, may at its discretion invite any public servant, organization, individual, or corporation to participate in its activities.

The commission will begin operations beginning with its installation and will last until 1 September 1989, when, according to the Constitution, the new president elected that year will take office.

This decree will enter into effect as soon as it is approved.

'Myth' of Need for U.S. Dollar Use Viewed

PA2807125088 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1645 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] For many years, most Panamanians really believed the myth that Panama would collapse if the U.S. dollar was not exclusively used in the country. The myth became a taboo, which did not allow other alternatives to be seriously studied or the necessary measures to be taken on a matter that has a strong impact on our sovereignty and economic security. The alleged advantages of exclusively using dollars, however, harmed us because it caused a liquidity shortage and made our national economy very vulnerable.

Today most Panamanians are aware that our country can and must free itself from the compulsory use of the dollar. Panamanians now also accept that the country will need its own, independent currency based on its unique economic situation sometime in the future.

The need for the compulsory and monopolistic use of the dollar is but one of the many myths that has crumbled in the past months. There are other myths that have been dispelled: that our country cannot live without banks; that private enterprise is politically all-powerful; and that agriculture only plays a marginal role in our economy. Our Constitution states that no specific currency has to be used in Panama, but, in practice, the use of the U.S. dollar has been imposed on us. The idea that other strong currencies such as the Japanese yen, the German mark, the Canadian dollar, the French franc, or other currencies should be allowed to circulate in our country together with currency from Panamanian banks has recently gained many supporters and is suggested in our Constitution. In fact, national checks are currently used in transactions that previously required the compulsory and monopolistic use of the U.S. dollar.

We are not presenting a specific proposal in this commentary nor are we favoring any of the alternatives being debated. The alterantives are being studied and decisions on what is best for the country will be presented when appropriate. We are only highlighting the fact that Panamanians no longer believe the compulsory use of the dollar is advisable and that most agree the country needs another monetary system, one that supports Panama's sovereignty and security.

Argentina

Debt Negotiators Hoping To Reach Agreement

PY2807143788 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1330 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 28 Jul (NA)—Finance Secretary Mario Brodersohn and Central Bank Director Jose Luis Machinea revealed their cautious optimism over the possibility of returning to Argentina—they are scheduled to return over the weekend—with "a preliminary agreement" from the IMF and the World Bank.

In a statement to the media last night at Ezeiza airport, shortly before the two government officials left for the United States, the second time in less than 2 weeks, Machinea said that "Later we will formalize all the documents (?related) to that agreement."

Brodersohn said he was "optimistic regarding the agreements that might be reached. Be patient and I will tell you all about it when we return," he told the journalists.

Regarding the short time that has elapsed between their visits to Washington, he recalled that "On Thursday, 21 July, we said that we had made progress in our negotiations and now we are returning to try and conclude these talks."

The finance secretary denied that he will contact representatives of the private creditors and added that "I do not want to reveal how the negotiations are developing. I would much rather make the announcement to the country once the agreement has been reached."

It was officially disclosed that the Argentine negotiators resumed their talks in Washington today with the purpose of obtaining foreign financing for this year and next year.

Finance Secretary Mario Brodersohn and Central Bank president Jose Machinea left from Ezeiza Airport at 2215 on Pam Am flight 454.

The Economy Ministry communique reports that "The negotiations will be carried out within the framework of the talks that the Argentine Government maintains with the IMF, to obtain the foreign financing the country needs for this year and 1989."

Brodersohn and Machinea carried out a similar negotiation last week. Upon their return they said they had attained "progress" in the agreement sought by Argentina.

Regarding the objectives of this new mission to the U.S. capital, the official communique briefly stated that "It strives to continue to make progress."

The departure of the economic officials was announced by Hugo Muleiro, press secretary of the Economy Ministry, who denied a previous report stating that Machinea had secretly left for the United States on 26 July.

The official spokesman pointed out that "The negotiations continue to be centered on the issue proposed by Argentina; that is, to obtain the necessary funds for 1988 and 1989," and said "We are not trying to reach partial agreements" with the international creditors.

He added that the Argentine representatives "are not discussing specific disbursements for already agreed upon contracts," such as the valid stand-by [previous two words in English] loan granted by the IMF.

To this $450 million ,the negotiators hope to add $1.2 billion from a new stand-by loan, and to immediately begin formal negotiations with the creditor banks aimed at obtaining an additional $2 billion which will total $3.650 billion received from abroad.

Costa Rican Minister on Debt, U.S. Policy

PY2807004288 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 27 Jul 88 p 13

[Text] Costa Rican Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto stated that the recent events in Nicaragua—the closing of a newspaper and a radio station and the expeling of the U.S. ambassador—have increased U.S. rejection of the Sandinist government and will result in further U.S. support for the "contras."

In a news conference, Madrigal Nieto said the attitude of the future U.S. Government regarding Nicaragua cannot be foreseen, because "a Republican administration would not necessarily follow the path of a previous Republican administation" and because "the democratic platform has no concrete plans regarding Nicaragua."

Madrigal Nieto, whose official visit to Argentina started on 25 July, returns today to Costa Rica. He said his trip to Buenos Aires was aimed at "discussing matters of mutual interest, such as the foreign debt, Latin American structure, and the Central American conflict, which not only affects us directly, but also affects Argentina indirectly."

He said his country "contributes to the efforts toward peace and democracy in Central America." He added that Costa Rica "has its own characteristics: The country has lived in a democratic society for 100 years, has experienced no military problems because it has no Army, and represents no threat to any nation."

Madrigal Nieto said his country "intends to remain neutral, does not want to interfere in its neighbors' conflicts, and will continue to act as a mediator in the Central American conflict. As a result of that policy, our country has launched the Arias Plan (presented by President Oscar Arias), which is being successfully implemented. Only some of the goals of this plan have been achieved, but this does not discourage us. On the contrary, it stimulates us to keep trying."

He said one of the main purposes of the plan is to reestablish the dialogue between Sandinists and "contras," which was recently interrupted, and he added that efforts are being made toward achieving an agreement between El Salvador and Guatemala.

Argentine Youth Condemn Pinochet 'Dictatorship'
PY2807173588 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 27 Jul 88 p 25

[Paid advertisement: "The Argentine Youth Support the Chilean People"]

[Text] The Argentine Youth has historically fought Pinochet's dictatorship. This fight, which began on 11 September 1973 when large crowds staged demonstrations rejecting the bloody fascist coup, continued with meetings of young Chilean and Argentine politicians in 1983 in Cristo Redentor (Mendoza Province), where the common fight against Pinochet's dictatorship was sealed. The Days of Solidarity with Chile organized in Buenos Aires in 1986, and the voluntary summer work of several Argentine students at schools in Chilean villages continued on as an expression of solidarity by the Argentine people with the Chilean fight against dictatorship.

The detention of those who fight for democracy and freedom in Chile, and the persecution of popular Argentine leaders prompts us to state:

1. That we are firm defenders of Chilean democracy and of the sovereign rights of the Chilean people, and that we also firmly reject Pinochet's dictatorial regime.

2. Because the dictatorship usurped power and ousted a democratically elected government by means of murder—including that of President Salvador Allende himself—arrest (some people have been missing since then), it does not have the right to demand the extradition of popular leaders who have been fighting for their right to life and liberty.

3. That we demand the end of persecution and of the McCarthyite campaign against popular Chilean and Argentine leaders who have expressed their solidarity with the fight for democracy and liberation.

4. Our commitment is to continue united in brotherhood within the Chilean Popular Movement seeking democracy, social justice, and liberation. For this reason, we urge all youth and popular organizations to express their repudiation of the actions of those who want to cooperate with the tyrant Pinochet.

Viva Free Chile!

signed: JP [Peronist Youth] Alberto Conca,

Fernando Melillo.

FJC [Communist Youth Federation]:

Alejandro Mosquera, Oscar Laborde.

JI [Intransigent Youth]: Marcelo

Vensentini, Raul Fernandez.

JDC [Christian Democratic Youth]: Gabriel

Monserrat, Jorge Srur

JSA [expansion unknown]: Cesar Fernandez, Daniel

Perez Funes

29 May Movement Youth: Robetto Pittaluga, Marcelo

Firpo.

Free Fatherland Youth: Eugenio Reatti, Gabriel

Lerner.

MTP [Peronist Workers Movement] Youth:

Pablo Ramos.

26 July MP [Peronist Movement] Youth:

Emilio Roldan, Teresa Fernandez.

Judge Acquits One Suspect in Chilean Case
PY2807181388 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 0200 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Text] Today Judge Alberto Piotti acquitted (Gabriel Beinstein) who was one of the Chileans charged with illegal possession of weapons.

The judge was satisfied with (Beinstein)'s proof of his innocence, and discharged him from the case involving Communist leaders and militants in Chile and Argentina.

After hearing (Beinstein)'s testimony, the judge ended his preliminary investigations and will now wait for a report from the ballistics and explosives department before continuing the investigations and deciding whether the seven individuals involved in the case will be prosecuted.

Piotti recalled that five individuals involved in the case are still at large, and added that if any of them voluntarily surrender, or is arrested, he will resume the preliminary stage and hear their testimony.

Some 20 Army Officers Suspected of Extortion

PY2807182388 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Relay from Defense Ministry by Carlos (Aulun)]

[Text] The Army chief of staff has ordered a number of administrative proceedings against at least 20 Army officers who have been placed at the disposal of the appropriate courts. They are involved in an investigation being carried out by Judge (Maria Servini de Cubrida) which involves the extortion of a businessman.

The investigation has led to the discovery of an apparent plot against the Army. During a raid carried out at Magdalena prison, the judge discovered in Jorge Damico's cell at least 150 names of military officers and civilians related to former Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico and some others who had their faces camoflaged [los cara pintadas].

It has been reported that Damico had been warned about the raid, and that he was supposed to have burned the documents. Instead, disregarding the order, he tore the documents into pieces and put the pieces in a bag, where the judge found the names.

The Army now has important information that will help neutralize any uprising that could emerge again during the trials against those involved in the Holy Week and Monte Caseros rebellions.

As we have previously reported, it has been established that these sectors were reportedly planning to carry out a psychological campaign against the Army leadership.

The plan included the distribution of leaflets and false information to the communications media. According to some observers, this campaign probably also included attacks, such as those carried out against the house of General Menendez in Cordoba.

The report adds that when Army Commander General Caridi returns from his vacation this weekend, we will have more news. It is believed that more people could be placed at the disposal of the courts.

Caridi Observes TAM Maneuvers in Entre Rios

PY2707192188 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1138 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Excerpt] Villaguay, Entre Rios, 27 July (DYN)—Lieutenant General Jose Caridi, Army chief of staff, has watched the maneuvers of the Argentine medium-size tanks (TAM) that were delivered to the 2d Cavalry Brigade. Caridi said that he hopes to close a deal that includes the sale of 50 tanks to Ecuador once the new Ecuadoran authorities take office on 10 August.

Caridi added that "other countries might also want" to purchase the TAM. [passage omitted]

Second Test of Pilotless Plane Succeeds

PY2807220288 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2040 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Text] La Rioja, 27 Jul (NA)—After the first test failed this morning, the inertial flight missile [cohete de vuelo for inercia de lanzamiento], equipped with measuring systems that transmit information to the ground, successfully fulfilled its mission at 1630.

The "pilotless plane," as it is called in military jargon, was launched from a Pucara aircraft in Chamical. If performed satisfactorily the scheduled maneuvers at an altitude of 600 meters and at a speed of 700 km per hour. Its range was 5 km, and over that distance it gathered reconnaissance information and sent it to the ground.

Bolivia

Bedregal Comments on Relations With U.S.

PY2707141988 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Guillermo Bedregal Gutierrez said that relations with the United States are completely normal and are being conducted at high levels. When asked by Panamericana about the state of relations between the two countries, Bedregal said that they were at an extremely satisfactory level for both countries.

He said that the absence of a U.S. ambassador in Bolivia should not cause any political discomfort and that relations with the U.S. charge d'affaires are fluid. Any government reserves the right to choose an ambassador and to determine the date of his arrival in a country, he said.

Although the United States has chosen an ambassador to Bolivia, he has been unable to come presumably due to lack of confirmation by the U.S. Senate.

Robert Gelbard, who has been appointed U.S. ambassador to Bolivia, has no date of arrival yet.

Government To Ask U.S. To Change Coca Demands

PY2707030088 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Text] The Bolivian Government will request the U.S. Government to change its demand that 70-percent of coca plantations be reduced as a condition to getting resources.

This proposal will be made to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, who will visit the country on 8 August. Agriculture Minister Jose Guillermo Justiniano, who revealed this information, said that the government is preparing a document which will review the Reagan administration's demand to reduce coca plantations.

Justiniano admitted that it is impossible to destroy 70 percent of the plantations because of social and economic factors. He added that a medium-term project for

the transition towards producing other products should be planned. He said that it will be very difficult to destroy the amount wanted by the U.S. Government, and that the U.S. proposal in itself limits the capabilities of the Bolivian Government.

Finance Minister Says IMF Approved Two Credits

PY2807030488 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Excerpt] Finance Minister Juan Cariaga said that the economic stability of the country is guaranteed for the next 3 years because the IMF approved two important credits for the country today.

The additional loans for structural readjustments include one for $176.8 million and another for $58.8 million, which add to $235.6 million. In a news conference Minister Cariaga said that the loans will provide funds to the Bolivian Central Bank to cover the balance of payments, foreign trade operations, and foreign currency requests.

Minister Cariaga added that the loans will guarantee the economic stability of the country for the 3 years of the agreement which was signed on the basis of a program submitted by the Bolivian Government. [passage omitted]

Planning Ministry Official on Investment Plans

PY2807221488 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 19 Jul 88 p 1

[Text] Fernando Candia, the Planning Ministry's economic policies under secretary, told PRESENCIA that from 1988 to 1990 the Bolivian Government will implement two investment programs—one basic and the other complementary—amounting to $1.710 billion.

He said that the basic investment program includes development projects. These projects, which the government considers priority, have been granted 100-percent financing and have already started being implemented.

The basic program will have an overall cost of $1.138 billion for the 3-year period. The part of the project to be implemented in 1988 will cost $353 million; the 1989 part will cost $471; and the 1990 part will cost $314 million.

Regarding the complementary investment program, Candia said not all of the projects are a priority or have been granted financing. He also added that some of the projects are new.

This program foresees an overall investment of $572 million for the 3-year period: $86 million to be spent in 1988; $237 million in 1989; and $249 million in 1990.

He said that the complementary investment program will not be fully implemented during the period of this government.

He added, however, that failing to complete this program will not seriously affect the Bolivian economy.

"The essential thing is that the goals for our economic growth are based on the basic investment program," Candia concluded by saying.

Two Bombs Explode; No Injuries Reported

PY2707144688 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Excerpts] There was great concern yesterday over two explosions in La Paz.

A bomb exploded at about 0900 inside the UMSA [Greater University of San Andres] law college; another one exploded at the former La Salle school building; and another one in the afternoon inside the Herman building near Plaza Venezuela. [passage omitted]

The explosion that occurred at 1800 yesterday, between the fourth and fifth floors of the Herman building near Plaza Venezuela in El Prado District, was caused by a dynamite charge that exploded inside a trash can located between the floors.

Police bomb squad personnel immediately began an investigation. Journalists were not allowed to see the damage caused by the bomb, and the police asked them to refer to the police Public Relations Office for more information.

Panamericana nonetheless spoke with Alfredo Calistaya, an employee of a company located on the fifth floor. He said he saw smoke coming from the trash can and tried to put it out with his foot. Unable to do so, he left for his office and 2 minutes later, he said, I heard the explosion.

The explosion caused some property damage and the shock wave broke windows. No injuries were reported.

DEA Plane Makes Emergency Landing in Yapacani

PY2807123488 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Report from Santa Cruz by Felipe Calvimontes]

[Text] According to a report from Yapacani, a small plane belonging to the DEA has made an emergency landing on a highway.

Panamericana learned last night that six DEA members were on board the plane which was still on the highway as of 1800 yesterday. The pilot was the only person wounded in the emergency landing; he and the crew were aided by UMOPAR members who operate in the area.

Brazil

Welfare Minister Resigns, Differences With Sarney

PY2807164788 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1600 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Welfare and Social Security Minister Renato Archer tendered his resignation to SNI [National Service for Intelligence] chief, General Ivan de Souza Mendez, at 2300 yesterday. [passage omitted]

The difficulties between Renato Archer and President Jose Sarney began during the Constituent Assembly's voting sessions.

The president thinks that the pension system creates excessive expenses for the national budget; Renato Archer does not agree with this.

Planalto Palace has just reported that Minister Jader Barbalho, of land related issues, has been appointed the new welfare and social security minister, and that Agriculture Minister, Iris Rezende, will hold the post of minister of land related issues for the time being.

Resignations Accepted

PY2907001288 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2255 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Excerpts] Science and Technology Minister Luiz Henrique da Silviera and Culture Minister Celso Furtado are in the process of tendering their resignations to President Sarney.

When the two ministers made an appointment at the Alvorada Palace at 2000 tonight, President Sarney decided that he would immediately accept their resignations. The president's action is consistent with what he promised Minister Costa Couto last night. President Sarney also decided to delay the publication of tomorrow's OFFICIAL GAZETTE so that the resignations can be included and effective immediately.

President Sarney will not appoint any new ministers to these posts. He will appoint current ministers to assume the duties of Science and Technology and Culture ministers, while he studies an administrative reform act which would allow the Agrarian Reform Ministry to become a part of the Agriculture Ministry; the Culture Ministry would become part of the Education Ministry. The Science and Technology Ministry, however, will continue to exist.

With these two resignations, together with that of Welfare Minister Renato Archer's yesterday, the (PUAR) Group—the PMDB group closest to Deputy Ulysses Guimaraes—leaves the government. Only the PMDB ministers who are close to President Sarney remain. [passage omitted]

Sodre Says U.S. Sanctioned Products List Due

PY2907030788 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Report by Nielmar de Oliveira from Rio de Janeiro]

[Text] Foreign Minister Abreu Sodre said in Rio de Janeiro that Brazil will only discuss U.S. retaliatory measures against Brazilian export products after the official list of products to be overly taxed is released.

The Brazilian foreign minister was emphatic: Brazil has not violated any international law.

In Abreu Sodre's opinion, the news released so far is simply an unofficial list of Brazilian products that might be taxed by the U.S. Government. For this reason, Brazil will only go to the GATT when the official list of Brazilian products is released. Abreu Sodre believes the list will be released next week.

Although the foreign minister supports a policy of good relations with the United States, he stressed that Brazil is acting in accordance with its rights.

[Begin Abreu Sodre recording] First of all, we are acting in accordance with our rights. We are not violating any international law. Second, the U.S. pharmaceutical companies—the largest pharmaceutical companies in Brazil, even larger than the Brazilian pharmaceutical companies—have made large profits in Brazil. Third, we want to reach a negotiated solution with the United States. [end recording]

The U.S. Government's retaliatory measures against Brazilian products, which total nearly $200 million, are in reaction to the Brazilian Government's decision not to pay royalties to U.S. companies on pharmaceuticals and foodstuffs.

It has been unofficially stated that the cellulose, paper, and cardboard producing sectors will be the ones affected by the U.S. retaliation.

Guimaraes Reportedly Annoyed by Sarney Speech

PY2807153488 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 27 Jul 88 p 5

[Text] After reading President Jose Sarney's speech, a copy of which he received at 1900 yesterday, Constituent Assembly President Ulysses Guimaraes left his office visibly annoyed, and said that he would not make, at least not yesterday, any comment on the speech. Earlier in the day, Guimaraes tried in vain to convince President Sarney not to deliver the speech.

"If I were in your place, I would not do it," Guimaraes told Sarney over the phone.

The "Constituent Daily" program, that was to be aired on television today, was postponed awaiting a decision from Guimaraes on whether he would respond to Sarney or not.

"Today I am not going to speak. There is no point insisting. I do not know where to go now," Ulysses said on leaving his office after reading the speech.

He read a copy of the speech that had been given to him by reporters. He read it in the presence of Chamber of Deputies PMDB leader, Ibsen Pinheiro (Rio Grande do Sul State), Special Adviser Bernardo Cabral (PMDB-Amazonas), and Deputies Heraclito Fortes and Cid Carvalho (PMDB-Maranhao).

"Mr. Chairman, Sarney is blaming the Constituent Assembly for the recession and political instability created by his government," Cabral stated after reading the speech.

Guimaraes' only comment was this: " This could complicate things even more."

Early in the afternoon, Guimaraes discussed with PMDB leaders and special advisers, the strategy that should be adopted following Sarney's speech.

"Are you going to call for a television hookup to respond to Sarney?" one of his advisers asked.

"No. That is nonsense. We are not going to engage in a verbal shootout. We are going to vote," Guimaraes answered.

In the morning, when they talked on the phone, Sarney calmed Guimaraes down saying that the speech would be very gentle. This was confirmed by Senator Albano Franco (PMDB-Sergipe), who also talked with Sarney.

"It is true. Sarney told me that too. But he was very annoyed," Franco told Guimaraes.

Prior to answering Sarney, Guimaraes intends to listen to governors, party presidents and leaders to hear their reactions; he will then adopt a position. He began this work yesterday. When he left Congress, Guimaraes went to Social Welfare Minister Renato Archer's house where a meeting with PMDB leaders was to have been held in the evening. According to some sources, during this meeting the minister [Archer] will decide whether to hand in his resignation or not.

Addresses Assembly

PY2807034888 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Speech by Ulysses Guimaraes at the opening of the second stage of the Constituent Assembly at the Congress building on 27 July—recorded]

[Excerpts] Messrs Constituent Assembly Members:

At the opening of the second round of voting on the text of our future constitution, I must praise the effective and responsible work of the members of this Assembly who made up the committees created to discuss the various topics, the subcommittees, the systematization committee, and the plenum of this Assembly. The 39,000 amendments presented and analyzed during the first stage of our work are proof of the extraordinary effort and diligence of the Assembly members, who zealously contributed to the high quality of the text of the constitution.

The last 18 months were long ones. During this period, nearly 5.4 million people freely entered the National Congress building to present their contributions or criticisms. The doors of this Congress have been and will continue to be open to all who want to cross its threshold. [passage omitted]

The text being submitted for the second round of voting is a long one. It consists of 321 articles on complex, and often controversial matters. Inevitably, this text will have imperfections, which were foreseen and were the reason for a second stage to review the text. The need for a second round of voting was also clearly shown by the number of amendments and major issues presented for revision. I recognize that there are imperfections in this text, and I am sure that we will be able to correct them.

Even in its current version, we have more reasons to be proud of having drafted this text than to regret having drafted it. [applause] [passage omitted]

After almost 500 years of history, this text redeems Brazilian geography. Our geography has been overlooked by the concentration of national wealth and competition in the great capitals. Our geography is regional, local, and municipal; it includes counties much larger than several countries of the world.

During elections, the people vote for governors and mayors to administer the country, but only the new federal government, as defined by the text of the constitution, will give local governments the funds to meet local needs.

A federal government must govern the country together with its citizens. A federal government should not force citizens to depend on state government organizations or the Brasilia government organizations, which are frequently distant and indifferent to the needs of the people. The liberation of the people from these government organizations was made concrete in this text, which assigned 47 percent of the federal government funds to the state and country governments. 20 percent were assigned to the states and 22.5 percent [figures as heard] to the counties.

If the constitutional text that we drafted had brought forth nothing but this one modification, it would have already changed the national situation enough. [applause] [passage omitted]

To govern is to reduce distances; thus the distance between rural and urban work is reduced by granting the rural workers 8 benefits and the urban workers 32 benefits. [sentence as heard]

Regarding the eight million retired workers currently living in Brazil, the text grants them the security that the real purchasing power of their pensions will be preserved throughout the years by preventing them from being reduced by inflation, as happens now. This reduction in the value of their pensions humiliates the retired workers and leads them to despair and death.

Messrs Constituent Assembly Members:

After we review and correct this text of the constitution, it will guarantee the governability of the country. [long applause] A country's governability is based on the social projects of the government. Famine, poverty, illiteracy, and unattended sicknesses make the country ungovernable. No government can be built upon social injustice because social injustice undermines the foundations of all governments and threatens their existence. [passage omitted]

This text of the constitution, which the Brazilian people gave me the authority to proclaim, will not be like a beautiful, unfinished, mutilated, or desecrated statue. [applause]

The people have elected us to draft this text, not to fear drafting it. [applause]

Long live the 1988 constitution. Long live the type of life it will defend and implement. [applause]

Chile

Matthei Says 'Lift State of Exception Now'

PY2707035188 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 26 Jul 88

[Text] General Fernando Matthei, Chilean Air Force commander in chief, who is also a Government Junta member, has said it is time to lift the state of exception. He said, however, that this decision must be made by the executive branch. Following a Government Junta meeting this afternoon, Matthei was asked whether the state of exception will be lifted 30 days before the plebiscite.

[Begin recording] [Matthei] Well, Admiral Merino said this and I think that it is going to be done. The decision, however, depends exclusively on the executive branch and not on the legislative branch. No law has to be approved regarding this issue. Consequently, this question must be put to Interior Minister Fernandez and not to me.

[Unidentified reporter] Do you agree that there should be no state of exception during the period before the plebiscite?

[Matthei] I believe we should lift the state of exception now. This is my opinion, but I will not make the decision. [end recording]

Matthei was also asked why the date for the meeting of the military commanders and the Carabineros director for designating the candidate was announced 1 month in advance.

[Begin Matthei recording] Because at the last meeting on Saturday, we thought it would be advantageous to facilitate the process a bit, so that Chileans can receive information about the deadlines as early as possible. In addition, this has considerable significance. The day on which the decree calling for the plebiscite will be signed, that is, 3 days after the nomination, will mark the end of the registration period with the electoral registries. We thought it would be good to let all Chileans know that they have a little more than 1 month left. All those lazy people who did not register should register. [end recording]

Matthei said the government is doing everything in its power so that no one can raise any objections about the plebiscite process.

Merino Says Communists Want State of Siege

PY2707161588 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 21 Jul 88 p C-1, C-6

[By Carlos Herrera Astorga]

[Excerpts] Antofagasta—Admiral Jose Toribio Merino Castro, upon arriving at Cerro Moreno Airport, in Antofagasta, said: "I do not come here as a politician, I come as a Navy commander to inspect the Naval facilities in the city. Tomorrow I will do the same thing in the first region."

Merino later commented: "We had great hopes and expectations at the meeting of foreign mayors. We thought it would be something positive, a meeting where urban progress would be analyzed. As it turned out, it was a gathering of socialist personalities whose past activities we know very well and who have come to Chile to bother and annoy, much to the contrary of what we expected."

Merino then added: "As it is commonly said, they have 'leather skin' because no matter how hard we tell them that a sovereign country cannot accept their interference, they remain immutable. I tell you they are political mummies, good for nothing." [passage omitted]

Regarding the political situation at the moment of the plebiscite, Merino said: "The situation is being stirred up by the Communists following directions from Moscow, as usual. The Communist Party wants to create unrest in the country to force us to impose a state of siege. Then they will be able to reject the validity of our

process because of lack of freedoms, etc. This is what Communists are after in Chile together with the Christian Democrats, despite the latter's denial. They are pushing the country to that." [passage omitted]

Economy Minister: Debt Reduced by $250 Million
PY2707143588 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Text] Economy Minister Manuel Concha disclosed that the Chilean foreign debt was reduced by $250 million in the first half of the year.

Concha said this has made it possible to reduce the foreign debt to $4.192 million. This is due primarily to the implementation of Chapter 19 which regulates the capitalization of debts.

According to Minister Concha, this mechanism has proven successful because it has encouraged the influx of foreign capital into Chile and has reduced the foreign debt. This, in turn, causes a reduction in foreign debt interest.

The minister made this announcement during the dedication of the textile complex, Hilanderia Suiza, which will provide 250 new job opportunities.

Comptroller's Office To Regulate Public Servants
PY2707191988 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 22 Jul 88 pp A-1, 12

[Excerpts] The National Comptroller's Office, in compliance with an investigation request from the coordinator of the Committee for Free Elections [CEL], Sergio Molinas, and other CEL members, has issued a resolution regulating the political activities of members of the public administration and the armed and security forces.

The text of the 13-page resolution—the last 2 pages of which contain the conclusions—starts off by referring to the public servant's political rights. The resolution is dated 21 June. Regarding public servants political rights, the document states that according to the Constitution, public servants "in the capacity as citizens, enjoy full civic rights and freedom of opinion on political issues."

However, it states in compliance with various laws, "the public servant, while fulfilling his post, cannot carry out activities foreign to their post, such as those of a temporary political nature, nor make use of their post either to favor or harm any particular political trend." [passage omitted]

Herewith are the conclusions reached be the National Comptroller's Office:

"1. The members of the state administration—in the broad sense of Article No 1 of law No 18,757—are prohibited, regardless of the post they hold, from carrying out any political activities from said post. They are also prohibited from using their authority or post to favor or harm any trend of a political party.

"2. The use of public funds or assets owned by the state of municipality or of other state organizations for the aforementioned purposes is also prohibited.

"3. Aside from carrying out their responsibilities, the aforementioned servants, in their capacity as citizens, are fully entitled to exercise their political rights as well as—except for the cases mentioned in paragraph no 4 of this resolution—of freely voicing their political opinions and engaging in partisan activities.

"4. The members of the Armed and security forces, in their capacity as citizens, also enjoy the civic rights provided for by the Constitution. However, in compliance with institutional regulations, they are strictly banned from politics. Therefore, they are prohibited from engaging in occasional political activities either while in active service or retired.

"In compliance with Clause 4, Article 169 of the DFL [expansion unknown] No 338 of 1960, these servants—should they be appointed to a civilian post—will be subject to the statutes regulating military, police, or civilian posts in compliance with the terms of this resolution.

"5. As long as the statutes mentioned in Article No 32 of law No 18,695 are not implemented, all mayors and municipal employees will abide by the aforementioned DFL 338 and therefore, by the resolutions referring to political rights mentioned in its articles Nos 99 and 166.

"6. Regarding specific CEL charges of abuse, it should be pointed out that they are not specific and lack the necessary grounds. Therefore, there is no reason to order the requested investigation.

"7. The National Comptroller's Office has and will continue to exercise its supervising powers regularly. The office will also investigate specific and well-founded charges in order to safeguard the fulfillment of this resolution.

"The ministers, intendants, governors, chiefs of state administration services, mayors, regional comptrollers, and auditing departments of the National Comptroller's office are hereby notified."

No-Vote Leader on Number of Voters, Agenda
PY2707141188 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 22 Jul 88 p C-2

[Text] Luis Maira, president of the Socialist command for the no-vote, reported that at the upcoming presidential plebiscite, the country will have the largest number of voters in its political history. According to Maira, this fact assures a "no-vote" victory in the plebiscite.

Maira made this statement yesterday at the no-vote command executive board meeting. The meeting was held at opposition movements' headquarters. In addition to Maira, Andres Zaldivar, Ricardo Lagos, Jose Tomas Saenz, Carlos Gonzalez, and Carlos Figueroa participated in the meeting.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the leftist political leader stated that it was a working meeting, not a political one.

Maira stated: "During the meeting we tuned up some aspects essential for the campaign's success. Some of the matters include development of democratic control, guarantees for the control of poll watchers, and effective control on the day of the plebiscite. All of this work aimed at the plebiscite will allow us to fully control the event."

He added that the results of the latest surveys were also discussed. These results show that support for the no-vote is increasing, the number of undecided is decreasing as is the current pace of electoral registrations.

Maira said: "In July we have had a real avalanche of electoral registrations which by far surpasses the objective we thought essential: 80 percent of the electorate. This projection seems to indicate that we are going to reach 106 percent of our established objective. This means that Chile will have the largest number of voters in its entire political history, and this is an essential factor in guaranteeing the no-vote victory."

Communist Youth Reject Exclusion From Movement
PY2707161188 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 22 Jul 88 p C-4

[Text] Yesterday the Communist Youth [JC] criticized the Christian Democratic Youth [JDC] and the Socialist Youth Federation-Nunez faction [FJS-Nunez], for opposing their inclusion into the Youth Movement for the No-Vote. The JC stated that the decision adopted by those political sectors shows that they "promote exclusions and anticommunism."

In a news conference, JC leaders Enrique Paris, Guillermo Sherping, and Gonzalo Rovira explained that the JDC blocked the movement's inclusion into the Youth Movement for the No-Vote by demanding that the JC sign a document that would force them to give up their own policies and accept the full content of the opposition's agreement signed on 2 February.

The JC especially refutes the position adopted by FSJ-Nunez faction leader, Luis Sierra, who said that the Communist Party has too little credibility and is too connected with violent actions to take part in the movement.

Sherping stated: "It is a shame that Luis Sierra is asking for more guarantees from the Communists and not from the government. In addition, his accusations are absolutely groundless."

Regarding the 11 July demonstrations, which ended in violence, Sherping said that the people are dissatisfied with the regime and opposition's anticommunism.

The Christian Left's national youth board criticized the fact that Communist Youth were not allowed to join the Youth Movement for the No-Vote. It added that the veto by the JDC and the FJS-Nunez faction "is absolutely unacceptable."

Manuel Pinto, leader of the Christian Left, stated that "For our party the veto by the JDC and the FJS-Nunez faction is absolutely unacceptable because it excludes a very important political force, breaking up a tradition of unity which to date has been defended by the political youths in our struggle against the dictatorship."

Humanist Party Members Urged To Support No-Vote
PY2707021388 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile in Spanish 0030 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Text] Today during a news conference, the Humanist Party—like the Communists—called upon its members to support the no-vote at the plebiscite. The party announced that it will not recognize the victory of the yes-vote in the plebiscite. During the news conference, which was hosted at the House of the No-Vote, Tomas Saenz outlined the party's position, which is similar to that adopted by the Communists. Considering that the plebiscite is a very significant event, the Humanist Party called upon its members to support the no-vote, warning that if the yes-vote wins, the party will consider it invalid. Saenz justified this position on the grounds that the opposition was not given guarantees during the plebiscite process. He said his party is working to introduce significant changes, and that it will not stop until its objectives are met.

Pascal Allende Replaced in MIR Military Wing
PY2707225888 Santiago LA SEGUNDA in Spanish 20 Jul 88 p 9

[Text] According to a communique—presumably released by the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR)—"The fourth national MIR congress has been held underground" and it has elected the MIR leadership, which will replace the old "central committee." The communique stated that "the former Secretary General Companero Andres Pascal Allende, and other central committee members were assigned to other positions from which they will continue to make valuable contributions to the MIR struggle."

The communique, which did not mention the names of the "new executive board members," announced that the board "will soon release a manifesto on the current political situation."

The communique also stated that the congress "made a political decision to guide the rebuilding of party unity, which in recent times has been seriously affected."

The communique added: "The congress confirmed the strategy of popular war as the main guideline for MIR activity. It was decided to promote resolutely and firmly a strategy based on armed struggle and all forms of democratic, popular, and revolutionary struggle. The congress also ratified the Leninist position of the party, making the MIR an organization based on democratic centralism."

The communique also reported that the MIR decided not to participate in the plebiscite and, to the contrary, it—along with other political groups—will continue to encourage an active boycott, "which must be reflected in the mobilization for the people's demands, protests against the dictatorship, actions of denunciation, strikes, economic sabotage, armed propaganda actions, harassment of the repressive forces, and so forth."

MIR political spokesman Jecar Neghme has called the decision to replace Andres Pascal Allende in the military wing of the MIR a positive one.

Neghme told LA SEGUNDA that this opens up the possibility for achieving unity within the MIR which had been affected by a division in 1986. He added that "Even though I do not know the new leaders of this MIR wing, it is good that new people with firsthand knowledge of the situation in Chile should take the leading positions within the Chilean left."

Subversives Allegedly Trained in Argentina
PY2807014288 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Text] Military Prosecutor Fernando Torres Silva has confirmed the existence of evidence showing that there are recuiting centers for Chilean extremists in Argentina.

This would make Argentina a base for subversive training aimed at conducting terrorist activities in Chile. Torres indicated that there are recruiting centers for Chileans, who are later sent to Cuba, Nicaragua, and other countries. They are trained for different activities which are later carried out in this country.

Torres said that he did not know how many recruiting centers were operating, but he has evidence that the centers are the places of contact. He added that the movement of extremists from one country to the other is relatively easy because of the many border passes and the problems in checking documents.

Judge Orders Arrest of 13 Slumdwellers
PY2707172988 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 21 Jul 88 p C-7

[Excerpt] Last night, Appellate Court Judge Raquel Camposano Etchegaray ordered the arrest of 13 of the 105 people who were detained during incidents that took place in downtown Santiago on 11 July during the "Hunger March" organized by the Slumdwellers Sole Central Association [Central Unitaria de Pobladores ,CUP].

The slumdwellers that remain under arrest in the Santiago penitentiary are charged with violating Article 6, Paragraph A of the State Security Law which forbids the disturbance of public order.

The names of the arrested individuals are: Victor Amin Molina, Marcos Caceres Maraboli, Jorge Luarte Grandon, Juvenal Olivares Viera, Claudio Olivares Viera, Marcos Alce Abarca, Raul Arriagada Carreno, Cristian Barraza Soto, John Bastias Jaramillo, Jaime Figueroa Vasquez, Alvaro Gonzalo Fuentes Kurt, Juan Pablo Huiza Contreras, and Victor Reyes Campos.

The other 92 detainees had been released earlier due to lack of evidence. [passage omitted]

Carabineros Arrest 19 Peasant Youths in Santiago
PY2807002388 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Excerpts] Nineteen peasant youths who were walking peacefully and quietly have been arrested by Carabineros in downtown Santiago. The youths, who had attended a rally commemorating the approval of the land reform law and who had also delivered a list of petitions to the Agriculture and Labor Ministries, were circulating a list of their demands, as well as leaflets calling for support of the no-vote in the plebiscite. [passage omitted]

University students Miguel Angel Espinoza and Sergio Antonio Correa were among the detainees taken to the first Carabineros station and to the police station on Chiloe street. [passage omitted]

Bombing, Arson in Concepcion; No Injuries
PY2707193488 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Relay from Concepcion by Miguel Angel Valdebenito]

[Text] According to a Carabineros report, a bomb and an arson attack were perpetrated here within 30 minutes of each other. The material damage has not yet been evaluated.

According to the report, the first attack was occurred when a group of individuals planted a bomb 1 and ½ meters from a lamp post in Coronel District, on Serrano Street. The shock waves damaged the post but did not knock it over. The explosion also damaged the top of a warehouse [as heard] belonging to Confich, a fishing factory, located to the east of the site where the explosion occurred. The damage has not yet been estimated, no casualties were reported, and the electricity supply to this area was not affected.

Although it has not yet been established what explosives and how much were used, it is believed that the bomb contained approximately 300 grams of ammonium gelignite.

Moreover, in Talcahuano a group of unidentified individuals forced open a telephone switch panel, belonging to the Chilean Telephone Comapany, located on the corner of Colon Avenue and Los Copigues Street, in Villa Acero neighborhood. The individuals then proceeded to set it on fire, partially burning it. Nobody witnessed the attack nor were any casualties reported.

The police immediately launched an investigation, hoping to identify and arrest the person or persons responsible for the attack. However, the investigation has proven unsuccessful so far.

The damage caused by the two attacks has not been estimated, but the Talcahuano and Coronel courts have been duly informed of the incidents.

Bus Burned; Bomb Detonated in Central Garden

PY2707034188 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 26 Jul 88

[Text] Today terrorists detonated a bomb in a bus at the corner of Bernardo O'Higgins Avenue and Santa Rosa Street at 1240 as it was picking up passengers.

The bus, with license plate EY-4874, was carrying about 15 passengers. Subversives who were on the bus left a fire bomb inside that exploded, destroying the bus completely. Carabineros came to the scene to check for more bombs.

We also have a last minute report about another bomb explosion in downtown Santiago. We have a report by Ricardo Urzua from our mobile unit 021.

[Begin relay] A bomb exploded tonight in the central garden on Bernardo O'Higgins Avenue in the area between Lord Cochrane and San Ignacio Streets. The bomb exploded near a taxi stand. According to the first reports, the bomb exploded in an area where gardeners keep their equipment. The police are searching the area for other bombs that may have been left by subversives. [end relay]

Colombia

Barco, 'Summit' Coordinator Hold Meeting

PA2707191288 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 1730 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Text] Colombian President Virgilio Barco and Msgr Dario Castrillon, national dialogue coordinator, are still meeting at the Narino presidential palace. Although no official report has been released, we have learned two important bits of information.

First, President Barco is investigating the possibility of guaranteeing safe conduct for active guerrillas to enable them to attend the dialogue next Friday. Also, the government is unlikely to participate in the dialogue, even though it will take the dialogue's conclusions into consideration.

Castrillon Comments

PA2807022488 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Report by Carlos Alberto Chica—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Chica] "Msgr Dario Castrillon, what is your main argument to convince President Barco that the government should attend the 29 July meeting?

[Castrillon] "I think my argument is the common wish of the Colombian people."

[Chica] Msgr Dario Castrillon departed for Narino presidential palace with that conviction. While President Barco waited for him along with the government minister, Msgr Castrillon continued to be optimistic:

[Castrillon] "I believe I will transmit the desire of the Colombian people to the president and he will rise to the occasion."

[Chica] When Msgr Castrillon departed Narino Palace, his tone of voice and countenance had changed. One single statement said everything [words indistinct].

Castrillon pulled out of his jacket the original document that the members of the Latin American Bishops Conference issued at their recent meeting:

[Castrillon] "I will [words indistinct] what the commission presented to the president [words indistinct] the answer later."

[Chica] Simply, President Barco and the government minister told Msgr Castrillon that Alvaro Gomez' abduction is a typical terrorist action [words indistinct] after Gomez' release.

They told him the government did not and will not agree to a dialogue or negotiations under preconditions of blackmail of [words indistinct] armed [word indistinct].

According to the government, to act in any other way would set the precedent that criminal activity such as abductions are [words indistinct] to make the state yield to or to alter constitutional order.

The government officials added that the dialogue [words indistinct] to avoid discussing the presence of armed groups, but, on the contrary, the dialogue should serve to question their existence, their reason for being, their methods and actions, and true intentions. The government insisted the dialogue is not to coexist with the guerrilla movements, but to establish procedures and guarantees for their demobilization. The government, therefore, believes the guerrilla movement must show they are willing to give up violence as an instrument of

political action. The government added that if the guerrillas insist on using violence, the government would hardly be able to grant temporary orders of safe conduct to M-19 guerrillas to attend the 29 July meeting.

The government, however, still believes it is possible to hold direct talks with the rebels as long as they are willing to give up violence and agree to a pardon law.

[Government Minister Cesar Gaviria] "With the support of the country's political forces, the government is willing to prepare, discuss, and send to Congress a pardon bill. That bill would be implemented after a process in which the armed groups make specific committments with the government."

UCELN, EPL Not To Attend 29 Jul 'Summit'

PA2807033588 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0037 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Excerpts] Bogota, 27 Jul (EFE)—According to an "open letter" sent to EFE, the guerrilla organizations Camilist Union-Army of National Liberation (UCELN) and the Popular Liberation Army (EPL) will not attend the "national salvation summit" on 29 July. [passage omitted]

According to the "open letter" of the Castroite UCELN and the Maoist EPL, the summit "lacks clear definitions and commitments, does not involve the participation of the government or the military, does not establish mediators, and does not offer guarantees for the guerrilla and popular organizations—thus we will not attend it."

They add: "It is inconceivable that we would accept the preconditions of disarmament and demobilization proposed by the government while the war against the people continues." [passage omitted]

In another message issued today, the UCELN announced that although it will not participate in the "summit," it will contribute to the peace process by suspending its sabotage of the Cano Limon-Covenas oil pipeline, the country's main pipeline. The group has carried out approximately 50 such sabotage actions this year.

Details of 29 July Meeting Disclosed

PA2807142588 Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Text] At least 30 people, representing the country's political, professional, labor, and ecclesiastical sectors, will meet on 29 July, despite the government's refusal to participate. Assurances to this effect were given by spokesmen of the political parties that were part of the preparatory commission.

The meeting will take place at the Cardinal Anibal Munoz Duque religious training center in (Uzaquel). It is scheduled to last 6 hours.

The preparatory commission established the following order of speakers: the church, the Liberal Party, the Social Conservative Party, Patriotic Union, the Communist Party, New Liberalism, the production associations, the COC [Colombian Central Labor Organization], the guerrillas, the Christian Democratic Party, the Popular Front, ANAPO [National Popular Alliance], Firmes [a leftist movement], MOIR [Independent Workers Revolutionary Movement], a representative of the universities, a delegate of the peasant organizations, one from the [words indistinct], and another from the cooperatives, among others.

Rebel Unit Offers To Suspend Military Activities

PA2707171888 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 19 Jul 88 p 11-B

[Text] The minority and pro-Indian Quintin Lame Commando unit, which operates mostly in the Cauca region, announced that it is prepared "to indefinitely suspend its military activities if the government" establishes concrete political and social solutions for that area of the country. [quotation marks as published]

The political military directorate of the Quintin Lame Commando unit, a group that emerged in the Cauca mountains during the seventies to defend the struggle of the Paez and Guambiano Indians, among others, issued a communique announcing its willingness to discuss a truce.

The minority group, which has preserved its Indian roots, maintains that it is determined to participate in any meeting that would lead to harmony and peace in Colombia.

The Quintin Lame Commando unit made its truce announcement during the dialogue with the leftist M-19 guerrillas for the release of Alvaro Gomez Hurtado, who was held captive by the M-19 for 51 days.

The group announced that it will suspend its military activities when President Barco's government promises to establish concrete solutions to the problems of housing, health, and land for the Cauca Indian communities.

The group also requested the Cauca region's demilitarization, not only by the Army and police but by subversive groups such as the M-19 and the communist Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC).

Samudio: 'Armed Subversion' Greatest Threat

PA2807011788 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 25 Jul 88 p 8-A

[Text] Armed subversion is the greatest threat to public and state security, according to Defense Minister Rafael Samudio Molina in his report submitted to both houses of Congress. The submission of these reports at the beginning of each legislative session is a constitutional obligation of each cabinet minister.

In his "Report to Congress," Samudio Molina said that the peace is being disturbed by the violence of subversion, terrorism, and narcotics-smuggling groups that are trying to destabilize the democratic system. In regard to armed subversion, he insisted that "its sole objective is to take over power by the force of arms to install a Marxist-Leninist regime."

Samudio said that narcotics trafficking is the second biggest threat to the country, adding that this crime goes against the country's legal, social, economic, and moral standards. He denounced the alliance of narcotics traffickers with the proponents of armed subversion. Samudio said that armed subversion has spread "under the protection of the most varied democratic measures, which aim to achieve peace and tranquillity throughout the national territory." He added that armed subversion has grown in spite of the government's efforts. He cited the example of the Army of National Liberation, ELN, which has taken a terrorist stand against the country's oil activity and exploration.

He said that FARC organized several peasant marches that affected public order, principally in northeastern Colombia. In addition, FARC has strengthened its military machinery, which now has 39 "fronts," though it had less than 30 in 1984.

He also pointed out the economic aid received by the Armed Forces from the national government and cited contracts totalling $82.6 million for the purchase of transport helicopters, ammunition, rifles, and 1,125 police cars. In regard to government efforts to reestablish public order, the minister cited the military garrison in Uraba and the border development command in Guajira.

Comptroller Warns of 'Major Fiscal Crisis'

PA2907024088 Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Text] Medellin—Rodolfo Gonzalez Garcia, comptroller general of the Republic, has said that the situation in the country is not as bad as some believe; however, he warned that if the government fails to obtain $1.85 billion needed for financing in 1989 and 1990, beginning on 1 [words indistinct], Colombia will be facing another major fiscal crisis.

Gonzalez, who participated in a forum on foreign debt and public expenditure in this city, said that Colombia is racing against the clock to refinance its foreign debt and to obtain a voluntary credit of $1.85 billion [words indistinct] with international banks to meet its commitments.

FARC-Run Cocaine Processing Plant Discovered

PA2807015788 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 19 Jul 88 pp 1-A, 8-A

[Text] A huge drug production and distribution complex directly managed by the "general staff" of FARC was discovered by members of the Army in the Vichada area. The Army also discovered that cocaine was being shipped to Cuba and Nicaragua. The guerrilla group maintained direct connections with, among other countries, Bolivia, Peru, Brazil, Ecuador, and Venezuela, which sent the cocaine paste to Colombia and marketed the product.

The discovery was made in an impressive military operation carried out by the 7th Brigade. Brigade Commander General Harold Bedoya Pizarro personally directed the operation, in which the Colombian Air Force also participated. The military officer revealed that the production complex sent a daily shipment of 1 and ½ tons of highly pure cocaine to Cuba and Nicaragua and that the complex belonged to drug traffickers from the countries mentioned above.

This harsh blow to the narco-guerrillas comes in addition to recent actions against them in various parts of the country. Only 1 week ago the destruction of 15 cocaine laboratories was reported in the jungle area of Remolinos del Caguan, Caqueta.

On Sunday, EL TIEMPO carried an exclusive report on the discovery and destruction by Army troops of an extensive marijuana plantation in the vicinity of Corinto, Cauca, which was run by the M-19 and FARC. At the Vichada complex, 80 km from the Colombian-Venezuelan border, in the midst of dense vegetation, several airplanes, among them an Aerocommander, were seized.

The Army seized chemicals, cocaine, a large quantity of communications equipment, and documents that prove that FARC leaders were directly involved in the operation. The Army also destroyed a clandestine landing strip that allowed DC-4 aircraft to take off and land, according to military sources.

The drugs sent to Cuba and Nicaragua were apparently taken there directly by the guerrillas. The self-styled FARC general staff used this cocaine processing and distribution center to finance its subversive activities. According to Gen Bedoya, documents found at the complex establish FARC's participation in the drug operation and its links to international drug trafficking.

7th Brigade Communique [subhead]

"The 7th Brigade command informs the general public and especially the residents of the Vichada area that units from the 'Heroes of Arauca' airborne force and the Luis Francisco Gomez Nino Air Combat Command No 2, in joint operations carried out against the narco-FARC in lower Vichada, 80 km from the Colombian-Venezuelan border, achieved the following:

"1. The confiscation of a Turbo Commander airplane, registration No HK-3290-P, operated by the Aeroejecutivo Co.

"2. The confiscation of a Beechcraft airplane, registration No HK-2873-P, operated by the Intercontinental Aviation Co.

"3. The confiscation of raw materials and cocaine in various quantities.

The aircraft had been used for several months to transport cocaine and FARC leaders to Cuba and Nicaragua. Each plane carried 1,500 kg of pure cocaine on each trip.

"The drug was shipped from international laboratories and cached near the clandestine landing strip, which because of its remoteness and strategic location allowed the activity to go unnoticed and unpunished.

"The 7th Brigade will continue its combat operations against the drug traffickers that remain in the area and asks residents to cooperate by reporting the presence of these groups, which must stop cultivating coca and dedicate their efforts to traditional farming and cattle breeding as their best contribution to the Vichada area and to its residents' development, welfare, and progress."

Villavicencio, 17 July 1988
Brigadier General Harold Bedoya Pizarro
Commander, 7th Brigade

After the general commander of the 7th Brigade published this statement, officials from the aviation companies whose aircraft were connected with the operation denied their alleged involvement, claiming that the aircraft did not belong to their companies. One of the companies claimed that its airplane had been at the Eldorado airport for the past 18 days.

Ecuador

PCE Leader on Stance Toward New Government

PA2707205488 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT 26 Jul 88

[Excerpt] Today Rene Molle Mosquera, a high-ranking Communist leader, said that the 11th congress of the Communist Party of Ecuador [PCE] decided to follow an independent stance with regard to the next government and to maintain its policy of alignment with progressive parties in order to strengthen the democratic system.

He added that agreement was also reached to expand relations with the communist parties of other countries in order to analyze the world's current situation and to find valid alternatives.

Molle Mosquera said that talks with the Democratic Left to reach an agreement on legislative and other matters will continue this week. [passage omitted]

Energy Minister on Domestic Production

PA2907024688 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Text] Energy and Mines Minister Fernando Santos Alvite has said that the country's oil exploration and production sectors have developed rapidly over the past 4 years and that mining activities have also increased. He added that the country's oil reserves total 1.5 billion barrels.

[Begin Santos recording] These figures were supplied by the National Directorate of Hydrocarbons, which is the government agency responsible for determining the reserves. Our current oil production is approximately 305,000 barrels a day, which is below the production limit of 317,000 barrels a day set by the National Directorate of Hydrocarbons. This is a moderate production rate, which permits the utilization of reserves without damaging oil wells and fields. It is what I would describe as a conservationist level. I believe we can maintain this level for many years as long as new oil fields do not start producing. As I said, CEPE [Ecuadorean State Petroleum Corporation] and other companies have signed exploration contracts, and I believe they might find more oil.

The oil is being transported through the trans-Ecuadoran oil pipeline. Occasionally we use the Colombian oil pipeline. You all know that this noble gesture from Colombia—which increased our oil transportation capacity—has been of great benefit to our country.

Regarding our refining capacity, we can proudly say that except for small quantities of liquified gas, we are self-sufficient in the production of oil by-products for domestic use. The expansion of production at the Esmeraldas Refinery to 90,000 barrels a day and the construction of the Amazonas Refinery made it possible to reach this self-sufficiency level.

Our current refining capacity is 145,000 barrels a day; however, we are not working at full capacity because our domestic consumption is between 108,000 and 110,000 barrels a day. This means that we will not have to import oil by-products over the next few years—which would be very expensive—because we will refine our own products.

We are also greatly satisfied with the speed with which an agreement was reached with Colombia—with Ecopetrol [Colombian Petroleum Enterprise]—for the exploration and possible joint exploitation of the (?Foquera field), which is located at our common border. As you know, oil wells have been drilled on both sides with positive results. [end recording]

Minister Santos Alvite stressed that the country has a storage capacity, for both oil and oil byproducts, of 30 to 40 days.

Paraguay

'Concern' About Expulsion of Spanish Jesuit

Spanish Government View

PY2807201388 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 28 Jul 88 p 10

[Text] Yesterday the Spanish Government expressed its concern to our Foreign Ministry over the expulsion of Spanish Jesuit priest Juan de la Vega from our country. The message was conveyed to Deputy Foreign Minister Rodney Elpidio Acevedo, who said the incident was an exercise of sovereignty carried out by our government to guard the peace and tranquillity of our soil.

Jose Rodriguez Moyano, charge d'affairs of the Spanish Embassy in Paraguay, presented Acevedo with the Spanish Government message. Rodriguez was received by Acevedo and Alfredo Caniza Sanchez, Paraguayan ambassador to Spain.

Neither Rodriguez Moyano nor Caniza Sanchez wanted to comment after the 20-minute meeting. Deputy Foreign Minister Acevedo also declined to comment on the meeting with the Spanish charge d'affairs, but he said that the meeting was cordial.

Asked why De la Vega was expelled, Acevedo said, among other things, that there are very valid reasons that justify this act of sovereignty. "It was an exercise of sovereignty carried out by our government to guard public order and to allow our country to maintain the climate of peace that we enjoy thanks precisely to the efficient and well planned action of our authorities. The results are there for everyone to see," Acevedo said.

Acevedo then added: "Our country can be mentioned as an example of citizen's coexistance and of protection of human rights in all aspects and in all cases. Special cases do not count for the true and essential concern of the government to maintain peace and tranquillity in the country."

Acevedo also said that the incident "was done to guard the peaceful coexistance of all citizens, a peace that we are fortunate to enjoy in Paraguay. This is not accidental, but the result of the lasting government work to safeguard peace," Acevedo said.

Episcopal Conference

PY2807161388 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 28 Jul 88 p 11

[Text] In a communique issued yesterday, the Episcopal Council of the Paraguayan Episcopal Conference expresses "its great concern" that "it was taken by surprise by the unfortunate news regarding the abduction and later expulsion from the country of Jesuit priest Juan Antonio de la Vega, at noon on Monday, 25 July, following obviously arbitrary procedures which should be repudiated by all honest men in the country."

The document goes on to say that "this incident, based on slander and intrigue which stems from lies added to the government's propaganda, by all means has sought to stain the church's role in our country."

The document continues: "In view of these developments we must ask those responsible to explain the true reason for this persecution campaign against the church at a time when we can still recall the marvelous days of joy experienced during Pope John Paul II's visit to our country."

The bishops wonder whether "fear of the church and the preaching of the Gospel and consequent ruling of the truth is that great?" referring to the Holy Father's appeal to carry out a "new evangelization which always seeks well-being through the "preaching of love and never has nor will support violence."

The document later appeals to the government to "stop acts of violence and repression" against the church and to seek "the truth, without deceit and subordinating personal interests, for the sake of well-being."

"Everyone, that is, the church, government, political parties, those responsible for public power, businessmen, workers, and students, must cooperate to build a better Paraguay, giving the best of each other, promoting respect for the human being, for the image and creatures of God."

The document concludes by stating that "the church does not expect nor demand privileges, but rather acknowledgement and guarantees to exercise its freedom of action and organization. This entails worshipping, teaching, bearing a testimony of faith, and the right to publicly proclaim moral and religious principles by respecting earthly interests and the actions of those who hold public power."

Opposition Stages Demonstration in Asuncion

PY2807155088 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 28 Jul 88 p 9

[Text] The Febrerista Revolutionary Party [PRF] staged a 5-minute lightning demonstration at the corner of Mariscal Estigarribia and Yegros Streets at 1900 last night. JLRA [Authentic Radical Liberal Youth] leaders, Women for Democracy, MOPOCO [Colorado Popular Movement] youth, and law school student representatives participated.

The placard-toting demonstrators stopped traffic, sang anti-government slogans, and blew off firecrackers in front of curious bystanders. No speakers addressed the group.

The demonstration is part of a campaign to support the reopening of the PRF newspaper EL PUEBLO. However, no further incidents were reported.

A police pickup arrived 15 minutes later with some 15 police agents to restore order where the demonstration took place.

However, the law school students continued singing antigovernment slogans from the door of the school building [located ½ block away from the site of the demonstration]. Police cordoned off an area around the school, but students closed the school doors and continued singing slogans.

Peru

Justice Minister Seeks Review of Backlog Cases

PY2707150788 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1200 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Text] Yesterday Justice Minister Camilo Carrillo Gomez asked the president of the Supreme Court to review the backlog of nearly 45,000 cases involving the state. Most of the cases deal with terrorism.

Carrillo's request was submitted during a meeting to coordinate the state's position in the cases. Alberto Luis Febre, president of the State Legal Advisers Council of the Peruvian General Attorney's Office, attended the meeting between the justice minister and court representatives. The meeting was held at the Supreme Court building. It began at 1100 and lasted nearly 3 hours.

Rebels Cause Blackout in Lima, 7 Departments

PA2807021088 Paris AFP in Spanish 0148 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Text] Lima, 27 Jul (AFP)—Tonight, on the eve of Peruvian Independence Day, there is a blackout in Lima and seven departments in Peru because the Maoist Shining Path guerrillas have blown up power towers, police have reported.

The blackout began at 2020 (0120 GMT), but the police have not yet reported any terrorist actions.

Bomb Seriously Damages Chaclacayo Power Tower

PY2707201288 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1800 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Text] Early this morning a Republican Guard patrol prevented subversives from completely blowing up a power tower in Chaclacayo. The terrorists had already planted a charge of dynamite at the foot of the tower when they were discovered. They subsequently escaped.

The explosion seriously damaged the tower's base and endangered the lives of the patrol members.

Uruguay

U.K. Plane Bound for Falklands Lands

PY2707170488 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1615 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Text] Montevideo, 27 Jul (EFE)—Today British Ambassador Eric Vaynes confirmed to EFE that a British Air Force plane on a regular flight between Great Britain and the Malvinas Islands was forced to land in Uruguay last Monday.

The "Royal Air Force" [preceding three words in English] (RAF) plane was carrying civilian passengers, food, medicines, and mail. The landing at the Carrasco International Airport was due to "bad weather conditions on the islands," the ambassador added.

The RAF plane, one of the three scheduled flights a week, was carrying 83 passengers, including women, Malvinas Islands residents, and a medical team, but no children, the British diplomat said.

Vaynes said "the plane will be refueled, and once weather conditions improve on the islands it will resume its trip."

Ope Pasquet, Uruguayan acting foreign minister, told EFE the plane had been authorized to continue to the Malvinas Islands.

Pasquet added: "Our position does not change because we allow the landing of a British plane for humanitarian reasons. Our position is one of unchanging and unyielding support for the Argentine demand of sovereignty over the islands."

In June 1982, Argentina and Great Britain went to war over the sovereignty of the Malvinas Islands.

Last March the Uruguayan authorities allowed a British military plane carrying oxygen tanks, tents, tires, and some ammunition to be used during military exercises, to land.

On that occasion, the Uruguayan Government authorized the landing of the aircraft, which had engine problems, and a diplomatic agreement was made that the plane would not continue to the Malvinas but would return to Great Britain.

[Paris AFP in Spanish at 1648 GMT on 27 July 88 reports that the RAF Tristar plane was forced to land at the Carrasco airport "last night"].

President To Receive Official Soviet Mission

PY2707143188 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0930 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Text] Today President Julio Maria Sanguinetti will receive the vice president of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, who is heading an official USSR delegation. The group will be here for 5 days to carry out several political consultations and meetings.

Acting Minister on UK Plane, Soviet Visit

PY2807140388 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0930 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Report by Lino Torres from Government House]

[Excerpts] The British plane was allowed to continue its flight to the Malvinas Islands for humanitarian reasons and without detriment to the inflexible Uruguayan position regarding the Argentine-British hostilities. This was said by Acting Foreign Minister Ope Pasquet Iribarne, who added that it was a commercial flight. [passage omitted]

He said that the Argentine Embassy in Uruguay has been constantly kept informed of the events.

Referring to the Soviet mission meeting with President Julio Maria Sanguinetti in Government House, Minister Pasquet said:

[Begin Pasquet recording] The Soviet visitors referred to the president's visit to the USSR. They pointed out the excellent USSR-Uruguayan relations and discussed topics of common interest. President Sanguinetti gave his opinion on the situation on the continent.

The Soviet representatives said that their country greatly appreciates President Sanguinetti's opinion, and that is why they asked him for his evaluation of the Latin American situation. [end recording]

After the meeting with the president, Pulat Khabibullayev, vice president of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, stressed President Sanguinetti's brilliant personality.

[Begin Khabibullayev recording in Russian, with simultaneous translation into Spanish] We are very pleased to have met President Julio Maria Sanguinetti. He is a brilliant, remarkable person who deeply undertands the international panorama.

[Reporter] What international issues did you discuss?

[Khabibullayev] We discussed bilateral relations between our countries, the strengthening of our relations, bilateral trade, culture, education, and other issues [words indistinct] positively. [end recording]

That was Pulat Khabibullayev, vice president of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet and leader of the Soviet delegation that is paying an official visit to Uruguay.

Planning Director on Net Foreign Debt Drop

PY2707181488 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0437 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Text] Montevideo, 26 Jul (TELAM-XINHUA)—According to Ariel Davrieux, director of planning and budget, the net amount of the Uruguayan foreign debt dropped by $200 million between 1984 and 1987.

Davrieux said that during this period, the gross amount of the foreign debt increased by $1.2 billion, but Uruguayan assets increased by $1.4 billion, resulting in a positive balance of $200 million.

Davrieux added that the Uruguayan net foreign debt dropped from $2.964 billion at the end of 1984 to $2.787 billion at the end of 1987, but the gross debt increased from $4.6 billion to $5.8 billion during the same period.

Nuclear Cooperation Agreement With Canada

PY2707150288 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0930 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Report by Lino Torres from Government House]

[Text] A cooperation agreement between Canada and Uruguay for the peaceful use of nuclear energy has been approved.

The agreement was approved by the foreign affairs, interior, national defense, education and culture, industry and energy, public health, and agriculture and fishing ministers.

In the preamble of the agreement, the president of the Republic states that Uruguay and Canada do not have any nuclear weapons and that they are signatories of the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons Treaty of 1 July 1968. He adds that the agreement strives to strengthen cooperation between the two countries for the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

Venezuela

Polish Ship With Weapons for Peru Released

PA2807150388 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Text] [Begin recording of Interior Minister Jose Angel Ciliberto] I will immediately contact the Peruvian Embassy to make arrangements to expeditiously turn over the weapons confiscated from the Polish ship "Kuznica" to the Peruvian Government. The Venezuelan Government is fully convinced that the weapons belong to the Peruvian Government, because documents have been presented to prove this. [end recording]

While the Venezuelan Government considers how it will turn over the weapons to Peru, in Maracaibo, the "Kuznica" is ready for departure. The Polish-flagged cargo ship, which is anchored at pier 6 at the port of (Maravino), is scheduled for departure tonight.

Its next stop is presumably a Colombian port. The ship arrived in Maracaibo 3 days ago after the confiscation in Punto Fijo of a shipment of weapons consisting of 200 automatic rifles, 6 tons of missiles, silencers, and a variety of explosives. The "Kuznica" left a shipment of caustic soda at the prot of Maracaibo.

Guyana

Labor Ministry Reports Increase in Injuries

FL2707150588 Bridgetown CANA in English 1502 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, July 27, CANA—Guyana has reported an increasee in the number of industrial injuries and work stoppages for last year, against 1986.

Figures published in the 1987 report of the Labour Ministry show that last year there were 8,795 industrial accidents compared with 7,822 the previous year and that there were 13 fatal accidents in 1987, against seven in 1986.

Whereas in 1986 there were 453 work stoppages involving 47,550 employees, in 1987 there were 497 stoppages involving 57,757 workers.

The local sugar industry accounted for the major increases in industrial injuries, fatal accidents, and work stoppages.

In 1987, 8,367 injuries were recorded in the sugar industry—891 more than in the previous year. The industry also had 489 stoppages in 1987—42 more than in 1986.

In the bauxite industry, there were under 500 industrial accidents and 393 industrial last year.

The Labour Ministry said its statistics indicated that workers in the industries - "still need to be reminded about wearing the correct protective clothing."

The ministry noted that while the average duration of the work stoppages last year (1.8 days) was the same as in 1986 and lower than in the period 1983-1985, "The upward trend of mandays lost to production does not augur well for the future, especially at a time when there is dire need for increased production and productivity."

It said that in the sugar industry most of the stoppages were short.

Outside of the sugar sector, there were only eight work stoppages—two in the bauxite industry which resulted in a loss of 88 mandays and 5,175 dollars (one guyanese dollar—10 U.S. cents) in wages to workers, and six in other establishments resulting in a loss of 2,375 mandays and 65,906 dollars in lost wages to workers.

In the report, Permanent Secretary Oscar Moore also reported that during 1987 the ministry received 746 complaints mainly from workers and investigated 493 of them as a result of which 139,145 dollars was recovered by the ministry on behalf of workers from their defaulting employers.

He expressed some concern that the occupational health and safety division has not been able to achieve many of its targets because of understaffing and inadequate transportation facilities. In addition, he noted that while the activities of the division have been regionalised and 11 new positions created and advertised, no applications to fill the vacancies were received.

The operations of this division have, however, been strengthened by the attachment of a Cuban specialist in occupational health and safety.

Suriname

Army Officer Criticizes Government, Brunswijk

PM2707133588 Rotterdam NRC HANDELSBLAD in Dutch 25 Jul 88 p 3

[Report on interview with Major Badrissein Sital by An Salomonson: " 'Surinamese Government Contravenes the Constitution Daily'"—first paragraph is editorial introduction]

[Text] Paramaribo, 25 Jul—Major Badrissein Sital (41) was one of the Surinamese officers who played a prominent role in the "revolution" in February 1980. Under Bouterse he became minister of popular mobilization, culture, youth, and sports, but after a conflict with the Army leader in 1983 he left for Cuba, whence he returned a year later. In order to close ranks, Bouterse has now brought Sital into the Military Authority as his behind-the-scenes ideologist, but in daily life Sital works as manager of the Surexco rice-exporting company. He is considered to be reliable, unlike Bouterse, who is generally regarded as totally unpredictable. According to insiders in Paramaribo, this slight major with his fierce dark eyes is waiting patiently for his chance to push Bouterse aside and pitchfork himself into the role of Army "strong man."

"Prime Minister Arron's new Surinamese Government may have come into being democratically, but it does not balk at contravening the Constitution daily. The government is therefore in fact operating illegally."

Major Sital does nothing to conceal his detestation of Suriname's current political leaders. "It is thanks to the military that, despite the politicians, at least there is a Constitution. The politicians may now be loudly blowing their democratic trumpet, but the military is able time and time again to rap their knuckles and remind them that there is now a democracy and that they have to adhere to it."

His greatest complaint—and consequently also that of the Army leadership, for Sital is the man who, on Bouterse's orders, does the interviews—is that the necessary democratic structures are absent in Suriname. "According to the Constitution, regional and district assemblies have to be elected at the same time as the National Assembly. The law governing this has not yet been approved, however, but in the meantime the government has put forward a 5-year government program. It has done so without consultations

at regional and district levels, and the program is then described as having been agreed upon through the 'democratic system.'

"Also, a Council of State has still not been installed, although this is required in the Constitution. There is still no legislation regulating the composition and working methods of this Council of State. Nevertheless, decisions of national importance—and surely this must include a government program—have to be approved by the Council of State, according to the Constitution. Thus the government is in fact still operating illegally. That is something that the Netherlands Government must raise with the Surinamese Government instead of matters which do not concern it, such as the situation in the interior!"

The fact that Netherlands Development Cooperation Minister Bukman discussed the peace negotiations with Ronnie Brunswijk's jungle commando with Prime Minister Arron during his visit last week and that the final joint communique from the visit even contained a passage on the subject greatly angers the gray-bearded major. "What have our internal affairs got to do with the Netherlands? Let the Netherlands Government rather put an end to its support for the rebels and not give them any further opportunity to operate from Netherlands territory and undertake aggressive actions against the Surinamese people." At the present moment, he said, four or five Netherlanders are active in eastern Suriname. He mentioned the names of Frits Hirschland (Brunswijk's spokesman) and Denise de Hart (an adviser). "And I have not said anything about the money which regularly flows into the terrorists' pockets from the Netherlands. For they are terrorists, the members of Brunswijk's gang."

Sital pointed out that, according to the Constitution, it is the task of the Army to defend Suriname's territory and restore calm and order in eastern Suriname. "We have also told the government this repeatedly. Nevertheless, they have reached two totally incorrect decisions. First, to sit down at the negotiating table with terrorists, because you simply cannot negotiate with such people. And second, to ask the the Committee of Christian Churches, of all people, to act as mediator. I have every reason to doubt the reliability and integrity of these Christians. On the present issue they choose the side of the terrorists and cannot therefore ever represent Suriname's interests." Sital himself is a Hindustani by descent, but as a Cuba-oriented left-wing radical he has a strong aversion to all religious persuasions.

Does he want a military solution then? Can he deny that the Army is preparing actions in eastern Suriname and has therefore also drafted reinforcements? "That is fantasy. As commander of land forces I would have to know about it. I myself am not in a position to deny it; that is the job of the government. Otherwise, it would mean that we were building up a force without the knowledge of the government. Also, how we solve the problems in eastern Suriname is entirely an internal matter for the Surinamese state." According to Sital, these problems really only involve the displacement of some inhabitants of the interior. The major is firmly convinced that neither the jungle maroons nor the granmans [maroon chiefs] identify with Brunswijk. If people have fled, he said, it is more because they are afraid of Brunswijk than because they are afraid of the national Army.

Then what about the report compiled for the United Nations by the Nigerian, Amos Wako, on the human rights situation in Suriname which seems to indicate that the Army has hundreds of murders on its conscience?

"If that is the case, it causes me no difficulties. Wako was given every opportunity for his researches, although of course you could never get a proper picture of the situation in 2 days and in a few interviews with vague individuals. If there really is a UN report, it will arrive on the desk of the Surinamese authorities. If the authorities take the view that misdeeds have been committed, they will have to take steps. We would like nothing more than to get stories like this, including those about the helicopters which we are supposed to have obtained from Guatemala, out of the way."

And in response to the objection that after all the United Nations is "not nothing" and it is clear to the rest of the world that horrible slaughter has taken place in the jungles of eastern Suriname: "Who is this Mr Wako supposed to be? Has he also visited South Africa, perhaps, to write a report on human rights, or Britain to see the race riots between whites and blacks? Are these terrible things the fault of the Army? It is the same as when a lot of rapists, robbers, and bandits are proclaimed as Robin Hood-like figures and heroic guerrillas by the Netherlands Government. Honestly, the Army is not using force. But if violence comes looking for you with the maximum support from abroad, can you tell me what else there is for us to do?"

Assembly Postpones Talks on Aluminum Agreement
FL2707194388 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Text] The discussions on the aluminum industrial agreement in the National Assembly have been postponed until next Monday.

In announcing the postponement, Assembly Chairman Jaggernath Lachmon said that apart from the [words indistinct] will have more time to study the agreement deeper.

During discussions last Monday, the ministers of finance and natural resources extensively supplied answers to [words indistinct] and ethical remarks made by assembly members.

In today's session, it was hoped that final clarity would have been made by the government after which a decision would have been taken.

Next Monday, the assembly will decide whether or not to authorize the government to sign the agreement with the bauxite companies.